

Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar

**Introduction - Arupadai Veedu or Six Abodes of
Lord Murugan (combined)**



Thiruparakundram Murugan



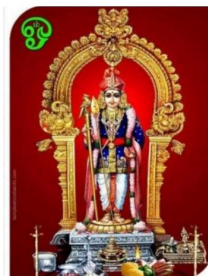
Thiruchendur Murugan



Palani Murugan



Swamimalai Murugan



Thiruttani Murugan



Pazhamudhicholai Murugan

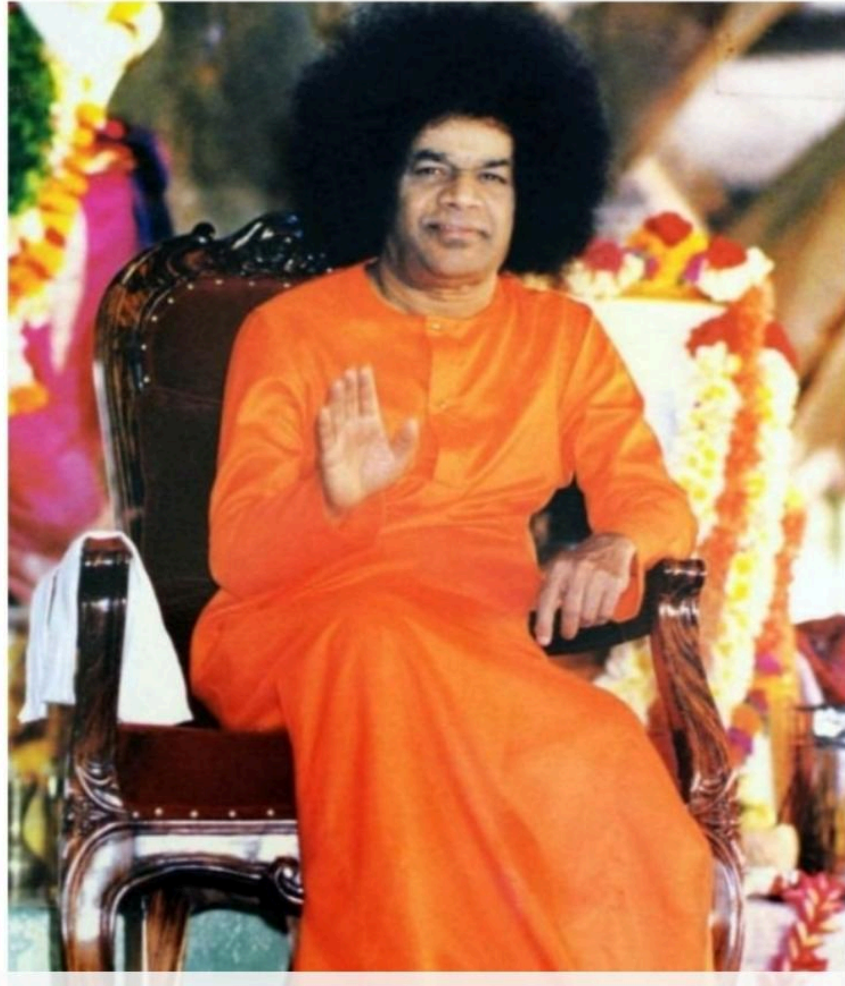
**Compiled by
Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar**

formerly:

- (i) Professor, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering,
St. Joseph Engineering College,
Vamanjoor, Mangalore – 575 028, India
- (ii) Principal, Vivekananda College of Engineering and Technology,
Puttur (D.K.) – 574 203, India
- (iii) Head, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering,
Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues Institute of Technology,
Vashi, Navi Mumbai 400 703, India
- (iv) Senior Scientific Officer and Head,
Cryogenics Section,
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay, Mumbai, India
and
Centre for Advanced Technology, Indore 452013, India

DEDICATION

**This work is lovingly dedicated at the lotus feet of:
Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba**



**There is only ONE caste -The Caste of Humanity
There is only ONE religion –The Religion of Love
There is only ONE language –The Language of the Heart
There is only ONE God –He is Omnipresent**

.....Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba

PREFACE

This compilation is on "Arupadai Veedu" or 'Six Abodes' of Lord Murugan (combined)"

Arupadaiveedu refers to the six abodes of Lord Murugan showing the six different forms of Murugan pertaining to the six different events that took place in his life. The six abodes are **Thiruparankundram, Thiruchendur, Palani, Swamimalai, Thiruthani and Pazhamudircholai.**

In this free ebook, following six free ebooks, which were circulated earlier, are combined in to a single free ebook for easy reference.:

1. "Shri Arulmigu Subramaniya Swami Temple, Thiruparankundram, Madurai"
2. "Sri Murugan Temple, Thiruchendur"
3. "Sri Dandayuthapani Swamy Temple, Palani"
4. "Arulmigu Swaminatha Swamy Temple, Swamimalai, Kumbakonam "
5. "Sri Murugan Temple, Thiruttani"
6. "Arulmigu Solaimalai Murugan Temple, Pazhamudircholai, Madurai"

YouTube videos : Here we have a wealth of info on these Temples for many hours, given by well known artistes, speakers, Swaminis and Swamijis.

Acknowledgements:

Many of my friends and relatives have actively encouraged me in my attempt to compile this free ebook. I sincerely thank them for their support.

My wife Kala has always encouraged and supported me in all my literary works, sacrificing much of her time. I express my deep appreciation to her.

I have drawn heavily from many references, YouTube and other websites as mentioned in the text.

Finally, I express my immense gratitude to Sri Sathya Sai Baba for His Grace and blessings, prompting me to initiate, continue and complete this work.

Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar,
January 11, 2025
Email: tmuliya@rediffmail.com

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- | |
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| 2. "Sri Murugan Temple, Thiruchendur" |
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| 6. "Arulmigu Solaimalai Murugan Temple, Pazhamudircholai, Madurai" |

Note that the above entries are hyperlinks.

Pressing on the desired name takes you to that particular ebook, which has its own CONTENTS page with hyperlinks etc.

In each ebook, do see the links under "YouTube Videos" which will give you a wealth of info on these Temples for many hours, by well known artistes, Pandits, Swaminis and Swamijis.

Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar

**Shri Arulmigu Subramaniya Swami Temple,
Thiruparankundram,
Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India**



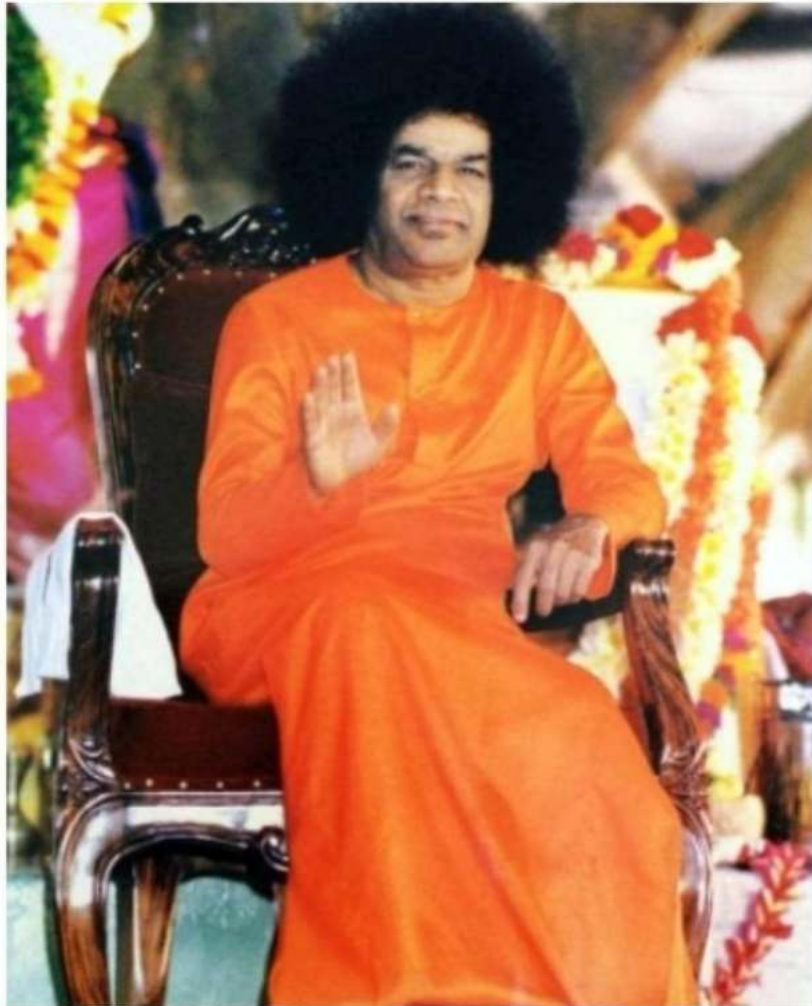
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PREFACE



This free ebook gives briefly info about: “**Shri Arulmigu Subramaniya Swami Temple, Thiruparankundram, Madurai, Tamil Nadu**”

This temple is regarded as one of the "First Houses of Murugan". The temple uses rock-cut architecture and is believed to have been built by the Pandyas during the 6th century. According to legend, Murugan slayed the demon Surapadman and married his consort Devasena at the temple. Murugan is also said to have worshipped his father Shiva at the site as Parangirinathar.

Details of Temple History, legends, festivals, deities, Timings, address, map, phone number and how to reach there, temple speciality, architecture, interesting facts, tips for visitors, darshan and Pooja Timings, details of poojas and their cost, contact info, donation info, nearby places, accommodation, comments by visitors,..etc are given.

Many good photos of the temple and related activities like festivals etc are given.

Links to YouTube Videos give videos relating to the temple, its legend and history, festivals, Rathayatra, Temple travel vlogs, temple tour...etc

Acknowledgements:

Many of my friends and relatives have actively encouraged me in my attempt to compile this free ebook. I sincerely thank them for their support.

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Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar,
January 4, 2025
Email: tmuliya@rediffmail.com

Ref: Wikipedia

Shri Arulmigu Subramaniya Swami Temple, Thiruparankundram, Madurai

Salient Info:

Address: 146a, Periya Ratha Veethi, Thiruparankundram, Tamil Nadu 625005

Phone: [1800 4253 1111](tel:18004253111)

District: [Madurai](#)

Function: [Temple](#)

Hours: [Closes soon](#) · 9 pm · Opens 5 am Sat

Date established: [6th century](#)

Festivals: [Vaikasi Visagam](#), Avani Festival, [Skanda Sasti](#) Festival and Masi Festival

Deity: [Murugan](#) and [Deivayanai](#)



Top View

Arulmigu Murugan Temple, Thiruparankundram is a [Hindu temple](#) dedicated to the god [Murugan](#) (also known as Kartikeya) at [Thiruparankundram](#), [Tamilnadu](#), India. It is regarded as one of the "[First Houses of Murugan](#)". The temple uses [rock-cut architecture](#) and is believed to have been built by the [Pandya](#)s during the 6th century. According to legend, Murugan slayed the demon [Surapadman](#) and married his consort [Devasena](#) at the temple. Murugan is also said to have worshipped his father [Shiva](#) at the site as Parangirinathar.

The temple is located 8 kilometres (5.0 mi) from [Madurai](#) in [India](#). In the main shrine, apart from Murugan, the deities Shiva, [Vishnu](#), [Vinayaka](#) (Ganesha) and [Durga](#) are housed. The temple follows [Shaiva](#) tradition of worship. Six daily rituals and three yearly festivals are held at the temple, of which the Kantha Sashti festival during the [Tamil month](#) of [Aippasi](#) (October - November) is the most prominent. The temple is under the purview of the [Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department](#).

Legend

Thiruparamkundram finds mention in the [Skanda Puranam](#) detailing the slaying of [Surapadman](#) by the god Murugan. According to Hindu legend, the demon king Surapadman once obtained boons, or favors, from the god Shiva due to severe [penance](#). He started ruling the world on account of the power attained. He married Padumakomalai and had several sons. Viramkendiram, a city created in the seas, became his capital, and he started troubling the [devas](#) (the gods). He imprisoned [Indra](#) (the king of the gods) and also desired Indra's wife [Indrani](#). Indra sought the help of Shiva's son and the god of war Murugan. Murugan sent his messenger Viravaku thevar to the demon, who remained unmoved. A severe battle was fought in Thiruchendur where Murugan killed all the sons of the Surapadman except Iraniyan. Surapadman hid under the sea. Murugan split him into two pieces, which went on to become the god's divine vehicles, peacock and rooster.^[1] The day when Murugan slayed Surapadman is celebrated as Skanda Sashti festival in all the Murugan temples.^[2]

In gratitude, Indra married his daughter [Devasena](#) (Deivayanai) to Murugan at Thiruparamkundram. Murugan is believed to have worshipped Shiva here as Parangirinathar.

History

Inscriptional evidence in the temple points to a history as a [Jain](#) cave. Other theories suggest that the Murugan temple existed much before the 6th century, and was converted into a Jain shrine by [Jain monks](#) under the aegis of Pandya king [Koon Pandiyan](#). The temple was later converted into a Hindu temple under the tutelage of Gajapathy, the minister of a later Pandya King, during the latter part of the 8th century. The temple received several additions during the regime of [Madurai Nayaks](#), who commissioned the pillared halls in the temple.^[4] As of 2021, the temple is maintained and administered by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department of the [Government of Tamil Nadu](#).

Architecture

The temple is located 8 km (5.0 mi) from Madurai, on the Madurai - [Tenkasi](#) road. The temple is constructed with rock-cut architecture dating back to the Pandya period of 6th century and the life sized sculptures in the *mandapas* of the [Nayaka](#) period during the 16th century.^{[7][8]} An *Aasthaana Mandapa* with several artistically carved [pillars](#) lead one to the towering 150 feet (46 m) high seven-tiered rajagopuram at the entrance.^[4] The granite hill behind the temple is 1,050 ft (320 m) has a shrine of [Kasi Viswanatha](#) (Shiva) at the top. The image of [Vinayaka](#) (Ganesha) in the temple holds sugarcane and fruits.^[9] The inner rock cut image is made from a single stone.^[10]

The Kambathadi Mandapam, Ardha Mandapam, and Mahamandapam, the three halls leading to the sanctum, are situated at varying elevations. The main shrine is an early rock-cut temple that has cells that house the sanctums of Murugan, [Durga](#), [Vinayaka](#), Shiva and [Vishnu](#). All the statues are carved on the wall of the Parankundram rock. Shiva is worshipped as Parangirinathar with his wife [Parvati](#) as Aavudai Nayaki. Panels depicting Shiva's [dance of bliss](#) are seen outside the sanctum.^[4]

A notable feature of this temple is that Shiva and Vishnu face each other in the main shrine, considered a rare thing in ancient Hindu temples. Outside the temple there is a water tank, where the fishes are served with salt and rice flakes by the devotees. There is also a Vedic school on the banks of the temple pond. In front of the Dwajasthambam, the flag staff, there is a carved Nandi (bull), Mayil (peacock) and mouse, the vahanas (vehicles) of Shiva, Murugan and Vinayaka. There is a flight of six steps called the "Shadashara Padigal", before Ardha Mandapam. The rock carvings of Mahisshasura Mardini (Durga), Karpaga Vinayagar (Ganesha), Andarabaranar and Uggirar are seen in the hall. There are five water bodies, namely, Saravana Poigai, Lakshmi Theertham, Saniyasi Kinaru (well), Kasi Sunai, and Sathiya Koopam.

Literary mention

The 7th-century Shaiva saint Sambandar visited Thirupparamkunram and praised the Shiva icon of the temple Uchinathar in ten verses in Tevaram, compiled as the First Tirumurai. As the temple is revered in Tevaram, it is classified as Paadal Petra Sthalam, one of the 276 temples that find mention in the Saiva canon. The temple is counted as the third in the series of the temples on bank of river Vaigai.^[11]

Sambandar met the three Tamil chiefs, the Chera, the Chola and the Pandya in this temple and blessed them. Sundarar and Sambandar composed the Tevaram Pathigam here. Nakkirar composed many poems on the Murugan icon. *Tiruppugazh*, *Kandapuramam* and other works speak of the glory of this shrine.

Religious importance and festivals

The temple priests daily perform the puja (rituals). The temple rituals are performed three times a day; *Kalasanthi* at 8:00 a.m., *Uchikalam* at 12:00 a.m. and *Sayarakshai* at 6:00 p.m. Each ritual comprises four steps: abhisheka (sacred bath), *alangaram* (decoration), naivethanam (food offering) and *deepa aradanai* (waving of lamps) for Uchinathar (Shiva) and Uchinayagi (Parvati).^[11] There are weekly rituals like *somavaram* (Monday) and *sukravaram* (Friday), fortnightly rituals like pradosham, and monthly festivals like amavasai (new moon day), *kiruthigai*, pournami (full moon day) and *sathurthi*.

Skanda Shashti festival celebrated during the Tamil month of *Aippasi* (October - November) is the most prominent festival of the temple. Murugan killing Surapadman is enacted during the last of the six days and the festive image of Murugan is taken in different mounts around the streets of the temple during the festival. Brahmotsavam here falls in the Tamil month of Panguni. The Vishnu named Pavalakanivai Perumal, and Murugan are taken in procession to Madurai to celebrate Minakshi's wedding (Chittirai festival), with residents of Madurai dressed in festive clothing. Nakkirar's association with this temple is also celebrated as a festival. Karthigai Deepam festival is also celebrated during the Tamil month of *Karthigai* by lighting a lamp on top of the hill. Vaikasi Visakam, and the float festival in *Thai*(Tamil month) are the other festivals celebrated in the temple. Since the image of Vishnu is in the temple, Vaikunta Ekadashi is also celebrated.

Photos



Tirupparankundram



Saravana Poigai and the temple



Top View



Tiruppuramkundram



Trivikram Vishnu



View of Temple entrance

Ref: maduraitourism.co.in

Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple in Madurai

One of the prominent religious shrines, **Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple** is among the 6 temples of Lord Murugan, called as Arupadaiveedu. This temple has been carved out of a mountain by cutting rocks adding on to its overall magnetism.

Thiruparankundram Temple was built in the 8th century during the Pandyan reign. This temple, with its shrine carved out of a rock, has separate shrines for Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu, Goddess Durga, Lord Vinayaka and of other prominent Hindu deities. This temple, which is also historically important, is known for a special feature. In this temple, idols of Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu face each other, which is a unique aspect in a Hindu temple. From this temple, sun and moon can be seen together, which is a major attraction among devotees.

When visiting Tiruparankundram temple, if times permits devotees can also visit to other theerthams which are located nearby such as Sanyasi Kinaru, Saravana Poigai, Kasi Sunai, Sathiya Koopam and Lakshmi Theertham on their [Madurai Tour](#).



Legends behind Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple, Madurai

This temple is among the six main shrines of Lord Murugan who is also known with the name of Subramanya. According to legends, at this place Lord Muruga has married Goddess Deivayani/Devasena who is the daughter of Lord Indra. This is the reason why this temple is considered to be one of the most auspicious places for marriages. It is believed that the couples who get married here get the blessing of Lord Muruga for a happy and successful married life.

A striking feature of this temple is that it is visited not only by Hindu devotees but is also visited by those with other religious beliefs. A Muslim shrine named Sekunder is also located here. This shrine is also associated with Lord Murugan according to some legends. It is popularly believed that Sekunder was a friend of Lord Muruga.

Structure of Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple, Madurai

This temple not only attracts devotees for its religious significance but also mesmerises every visitor with its architectural beauty. The structure of the temple can be mainly attributed to Pandyan reign and Nayakar rule. Carved out of rock, this temple was built during Pandyan rule while the massive mandapams of this temple were built during the Nayakar reign.

The innermost shrine of the temple which has been cut out of a rock consists of sanctums of Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu, Lord Vinayaka, Lord Subramanya and Goddess Durga. All the idols have been artistically carved on the walls of Parankundram rock, presenting an enthralling and intricate craftsmanship that existed during the Pandyan period. The presiding deity of this temple is Parangirinathar, one of the names of Lord Shiva with his divine consort Goddess Parvati as Goddess Aavudai Nayaki. Outside the sanctum, devotees can see carvings depicting Lord Shiva in various dance forms. Along with the idols of Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu facing each other which is indeed a unique site, another special feature of this Lord Murugan temple is the magnificent statue of Nandi, Mayil and his vehicle Mouse that have been artistically carved. It is located in front of Kodi Maram. Tourists can also see

carvings of Mahishasura Mardini, Karpaga Vinayagar, Andarabaranar and Uggirar on the rocks.

This temple has distinguishably artistic mandapams as well. Aasthaana Mandapam is one of the most attractive parts with various exquisitely carved pillars. Other mandapams such as Kambathadi Mandapam, Maha-mandapam and Ardha Mandapam are also worth noticing.

Timings of Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple, Madurai

Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple opening timings are from 5 AM to 1 PM. It again opens for devotees in the evening, from 4 PM to 9 PM. This temple is open on all days of the week.

One of the best times to visit this temple is during the month of March and April when a 14 day festival is celebrated in the temple. The victory of Lord Murugan where he defeated Demon Suran and his divine marriage to Devasena is celebrated during this festival with great fervour.

Reaching Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple, Madurai

Thiruparankundram Temple is located at a distance of 10 km from Madurai city. From Madurai to Kanyakumari road, it is about 7 km away. Tourists can either hire a cab from Madurai to this temple or travel via public transport. Many buses run from Madurai to here at regular intervals.

Ref: behindeverytemple.org

Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple

On the outskirts of Madurai, roughly eight kilometers from the city lies one of the most prominent religious shrines in India, Thiruparankundram Murugan. It is among the six abodes of Lord Murugan, called Arupadaiveedu as a whole.

The temple is believed to be built by the Pandyas during the eighth century by a single mountain carving out the rocks, which add to its overall magnetism.

According to the story, it is where Murugan married Deivayanai, the princess of heaven and the divine daughter of Lord Indra after slaying the demon king Surapadman.

This is why this temple is considered one of the most promising places for marriages. It is believed that the couples married here, lead a happy and prosperous married life as the blessings of Lord Muruga shower them.

A striking feature that makes this temple one of a kind is that it is visited not only by Hindu devotees but also by those with different religious faiths. The shrine of Sekunder also lies within the temple. Many legends associate the shrine to Lord Murugan. It is popularly believed that Sekunder was one of Muruga's friends.

History Behind the Temple

During the 8th century AD, Pandya rulers laid a temple which followed rock-cut design. The temple's worship history may go well into the past, even before Hinduism.

Later on, during the reign of Nayaks of Madurai (From 1559 to 1736 AD), the temple was renovated with beautiful gopurams as well as some beautification. Extensive and marvelous Mukha mandapam complete with 48 ornate pillars carved during the rule of Pandya and Nayaks was also built.

Many stories are associated with this mountain. The hill is also considered to be the "Southern Himalaya" where the gods assemble as per popular beliefs.

The Impossible Architecture

The Thiruparankundram Murugan is a cave temple which is located upon a hillock that was built in the early sixth century by a king named Maravarman Sundara Pandiyan.

The Temple was built on a rock-cut architecture, which dates back to the reign of Pandyas in the 6th century and is full of life-sized sculptures in the mandapas of the Nayaka period from the 16th century. The Aasthaana Mandapa, with several artistically carved pillars, leads one to the large 150 feet high seven-storied raja gopuram at the entrance.

The Kambathadi, Ardha, and Maha Mandapams and the three halls leading to the sanctum, are situated at various heights. The main shrine is a humongous slab of rock that has cells to house the sanctums of Subramanya, Durga, Vinayakar, Shiva, and Vishnu. All the statues are carved on the wall of the parankundram rock.

An interesting yet perplexing feature of this Temple is that the Gods, Shiva, and Vishnu face each other in the main shrine, which is something rare in ancient Hindu temples. This is baffling as Hinduism has always been divided among two distinct worshiping groups – Shaivites (worshippers of Lord Shiva) and Vaishnavites (one's who worship Lord Vishnu). Outside the Temple there lies a beautiful pond where, according to Temple tradition, devotees feed fish salt and rice flakes. There is also a Vedic school adjacent to the banks of the temple pond. In front of the Dwajasthambam, the flagstaff, there is a carved Nandi(Shiva's ride), Mayil (peacock), and Mushak (Ganesha's carrier). There is a flight of six steps called the "Shadashara Padigal", before Ardha Mandapam. There are intricate carvings of gods at the entrance of the Temple.

The presiding deity of Murugan's father, Lord Shiva, also known as Parangirinathar and the female deity, his consort mother Parvati is known as Aavudai Nayaki, are carved in the parankunram rock. Slide's depicting Shiva's dance of bliss, the Shiva Tandava, are seen outside the sanctum. These magnificent pieces of art date back to the Pandya

Going inside, one can see the sannidhis of various Hindu Gods and Hindu Goddesses.

This Temple not only attracts devotees for its religious significance but also enthralls visitors with its architectural beauty.

Story behind the Temple

Surapadman, the demon king, reigned over Veera Mahendrapuri, an island fortress. He was an intelligent scholar and a devout to Shiva for ages. Once he commenced a severe Tapas to gain Shiva's attention, and he was successful. Lord Shiva granted him many boons as the Lord was impressed by Surapadman's intense devotion and loyalty. Surapadman became more and more powerful with time, and with the immortality he possessed, It wasn't much longer for his arrogance to take over. Later, Surapadman started terrorizing the world. He wreaked havoc in all three worlds, capturing everyone in sight and killing those who showed signs of resistance. He even imprisoned Indra, king of the Devas. Indra then appealed to Murugan, who finished the demon king in an ensuing long battle.

This is well followed by mythology as it states Lord Murugan was offered the wedlock of Deivayani, daughter of Indra as a reward of gratitude since Murugan had defeated the Demon King and successfully released the Devas from the clutches of bondage. The marriage took place in Thiruparankundram, which was attended by many, including the Sun and Moon. Afterward, Lord Murugan attained the blessings of his parents Siva and Parvathi.

The divine sculptor, Viswakarma, was hired to erect this abode for the permanent worship of all the deities. This is the only shrine where you can see Lord Murugan with his senior consort Deivayani, whereas in all other abodes, both his consorts – Deivayani and Valli are seen along with him. As this is the venue of Lord Murugan's wedding, it is considered auspicious for weddings, and hundreds of thousands of marriages for generations are taking place here.

According to another tale, King Harichandra, who worshipped Shiva from this hillock, gained eternal wisdom. Later on, he built a temple here.

There are many stories associated with this mountain. Thus, the hill is considered to be the "Southern Himalaya" where the gods assemble. There is also a story that this is the place where the Sun and Moon take a rest.

A mysterious story

There are things that happen here which cannot be explained by science alone. People irrespective of religion from all over India and even the world throng this place, to let go of their sufferings and attain Muruga's blessings.

On the backside of Thiruparankundram hill-top, there is a Muslim Dargah of Hazrat Sultan Sikhandar Badusha, who came from Jeddah in the 9th century. It is quite rare to see two religions of different ideologies with the same goal, peace, to prosper together within the precinct of the temple. But this is the beauty of Thiruparankundram.

A home to Mystics

Machamuni

Along with the presiding deities at Thiruparankundram, Machamuni has always been associated whenever the name of the temple has come up in the books of mythology. Well known as Nondi siddhar, He is believed to be born in Machai Desam in the Pandya Kingdom. His origin is as fascinating as the Siddhar, who walked in the alleys of the temple himself. As the legend says, once when Shiva was transferring his divine knowledge to Parvathi at a nearby sea, a fish in the sea absorbed the teachings of Lord Shiva. Later, as the fish got enlighten and its desire to learn grew the remaining things, it took birth as Machamuni in the world. Since Machamuni was born with the blessings of Lord Shiva, he naturally had the divine search. Brought up by Siddhar Pinnakeesar, Machamuni embarked on his quest to gather as much wisdom as possible and use it for the welfare of others.

An account of his life:

- Machamuni Siddhar is also known as Machindranath or Matsyendranath in the northern part of India and Machamuni in south India.
- His main contribution is Machendhra nadhar endra nondi siddhar padal
- His place of Samadhi is Thiruparankundram
- Understanding the impermanence of human life, he, in search of truth, got teachings from Siddhar Kakapujandar.
- He followed vaas iyogam and awakened his kundalini energy to understand his inner Self and attain siddhis.
- After 12 years of vaasi yogam, he got astamasiddhis and pronounced his significant works in the Siddha medicine system.
- By tremendous efforts and constant practice of meditation and yoga, he realized the true nature of the Self.
- After learning Siddha medicine, alchemy, gnana, and Siddha yoga philosophies, by dint of his deep meditation, he proposed many theories in the space and atomic sciences.
- He also donated all his wealth to poor people to attain spiritual salvation.
- He mentored Siddhar Korakkar and transferred his knowledge to him.
- He reached Jeeva samadhi in Thiruparankundram in Tamil Nadu.

Interesting Facts

- Lord Karthikeya or Murugan temple in Thiruparankundram near Madurai, Tamil Nadu is the only one in the entire Indian subcontinent where Murugan is posed sitting contrary to his standing depiction in most of the temples.
- Thirupparankundram is the only temple among the six abodes that are situated on flat land; the remaining five are on the hills.
- Sun and moon can be seen together here, which has become a significant attraction here
- This temple is home to several festivals. These include Panguni Uthiram (celebrated during March), Vaikasi Visakam as Visakam is said to be the birth star of Lord Muruga, Kandha Sashti (Celebrated during October or November), Aadi Krithigai (Celebrated in the month of May or June) and Thai Poosam which is celebrated during the full moon day.

Ref: tamilnadutourism.tn.gov.in

Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple

Carved out of the mountain, Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple is an absolute architectural marvel. The temple is one of the famous shrines in Madurai.

Built in the 8th century during the reign of Pandyas, the temple has a very rare feature. The idols of Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu face each other in this temple. It is considered as a unique feature in Hindu temples. With intricate stone carvings, the temple is a fascinating structure which leaves a lasting impression on the visitors. It is one among the six temples of Lord Muruga. Legend has it that Lord Muruga married Goddess Devasena here and the temple is believed to be one of the most auspicious places for marriage. It also stands as a symbol of religious harmony. A Muslim shrine Sekunder is also located here. The temple is cut out of rock and houses the sanctums of Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu, Lord Vinayaka, Lord Subramanya and Goddess Durga. The carvings reflect immaculate craftsmanship. There is also the stupendous statue of Nandi (the vehicle of Lord Shiva) , Mayil (the vehicle of Lord Subramanya) and Mouse (the vehicle of Lord Vinayaka). Carvings of Mahishasura Mardini, Karpaga Vinayagar, Andarabaranar and Uggirar can also be found on the rocks. Artistically made mandapams add to the attraction of this temple. With exquisite pillars, these mandapams mesmerise the visitors.

How to Reach

National Highway 45 and 45B connects Madurai to Chennai. Madurai can be reached from Bengaluru via NH 49.

Madurai has three bus terminals - M.G.R. Bus Stand (Mattuthavani), Arappalayam (for inter city buses) and Periyar Bus Stand (for intra city buses).

Madurai Domestic Airport, Avaniyapuram.

The airport has direct connectivity with international destinations like Colombo, Dubai and Singapore. It is also well connected with popular domestic destinations like Chennai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Mumbai and New Delhi.

Madurai Junction is the major railway station serving the city.

Best time to visit

Madurai has a hot tropical climate. It is a destination that can be visited any time of the year. However, for the best experience, visit the destination during December to February.

Nearby Destinations



Accommodation



Hotel Tamilnadu - Madurai-1

📍 3, W Veli St, Near Periyar Bus Stand, Periyar, Madurai Main

Thiruparankundram Temple, Madurai



At a distance of 8 km from Madurai Junction Railway Station, Thiruparankundram Temple, also known as Tirupparamkunram Murugan Kovil is renowned for its 8th century rock cut cave temple dedicated to Lord Murugan (Subrahmanya). It is one of the major sacred places to visit in Madurai.

Thiruparankundram Temple is one of the six abodes of Murugan and considered as the first and foremost temple of Lord Muruga. Several myths and legends are associated with this temple and one of them says that it is at this place that Lord Muruga defeated the demon Surapadman and got married to Deivayani, daughter of the king of heaven, Indra and worshipped Lord Shiva.

The main shrine is an early rock cut temple which has cells that house the sanctums of Subramanya, Durga, Vinayakar, Shiva and Vishnu. There are several mandapas in this temple known as Kambathadi Mandapam, Ardha Mandapam, and Mahamandapam situated at different levels connected by steps. There are several architectural features of interest, especially the rock cut portions of this hill temple dating back to the Pandya period and the life sized sculptures in the mandapams of the Nayakar period.

An Aasthaana Mandapam with several artistically carved pillars leads one to the Rajagopuram which is 150 feet high. The shrine, having 48 artistic carved pillars, is a large rectangular chamber excavated into the huge main rock. The sanctum sanctorum is constructed by a combination of nine minerals called Navabashana and has the statue of lord Murugan carved in his standing position.

A curious feature of this temple is that the Gods Shiva and Vishnu face each other in the main shrine, which is a rare scene in ancient Hindu temples. Outside the temple there is a

beautiful pond where, according to Temple tradition, the fishes are served with salt and rice flakes by the devotees.

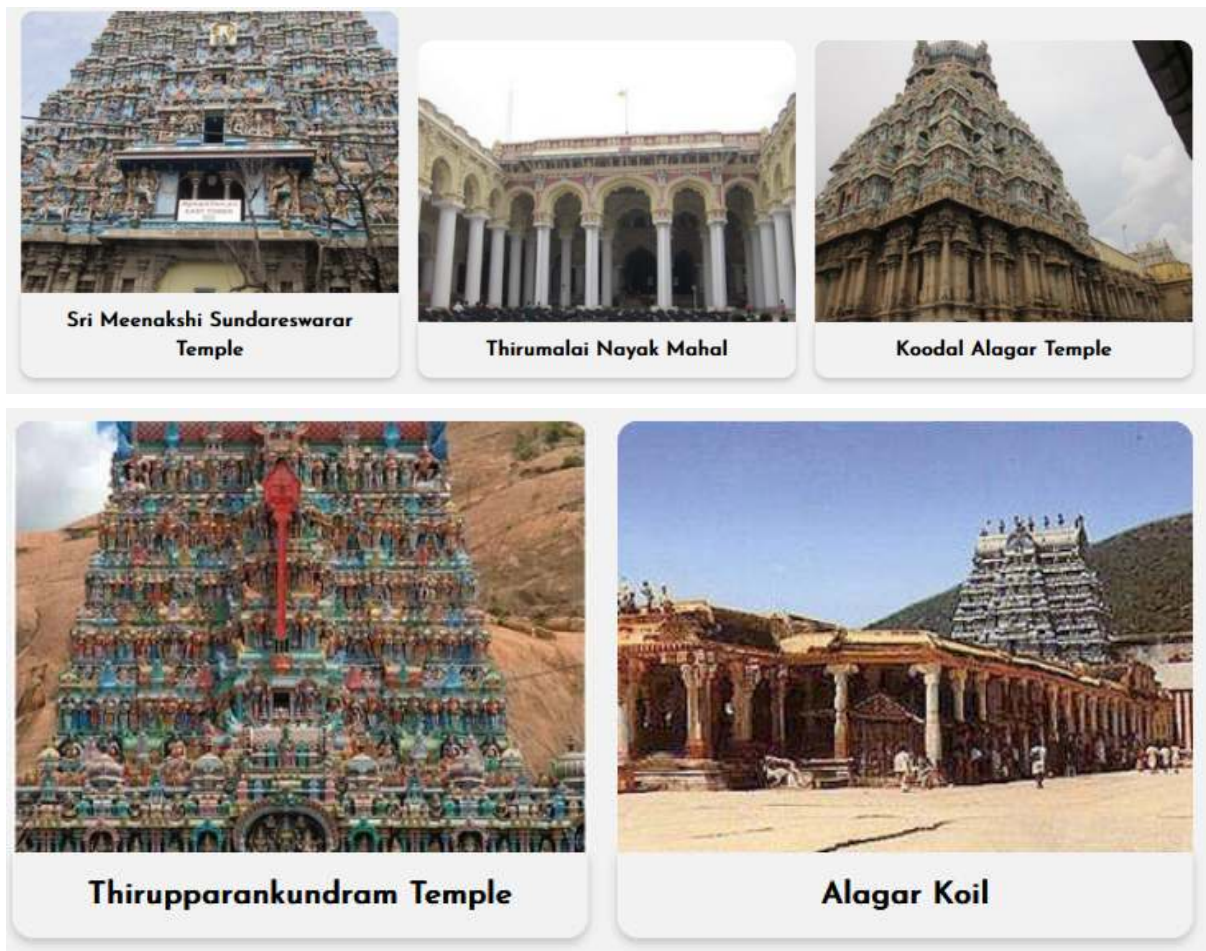
Annual festival is celebrated in the Tamil month of Panguni (March / April) which attracts large number of devotees. Lord Muruga from here is taken in procession to Madurai to celebrate Minakshi's wedding (Chittirai festival in April / May).

Bus from Madurai to Thiruparankundram starts at Periyar bus station located near Railway Station.

Timings :

5:30 AM to 1 PM and 4 to 9:30 PM

5 Must Visit Places in Madurai



Other Places to Visit in & around Madurai

Srivilliputhur Andal Temple

Gandhi Museum

Vandiyur Mariamman Temple

Narasingam

Pazhamudhir Solai

Vaigai Dam

Kumbakkarai Waterfalls

Suruli Waterfalls

Kodaikanal

Ref: murugan.org

Tirupparankundram



Tirupparankundram Lord Subrahmanya Swami at centre with Teyvayānai Ammai at his left side and Sage Narada at his right side

Tirupparankundram, a hill five miles southwest of Madurai, is the fourth pilgrimage site of Muruga. A cave temple dedicated to the element of earth and mentioned in various classical Tamil texts as the 'Southern Himalaya' where the gods assemble, Tirupparankundram is also mentioned in legend as 'the place where the sun and moon abide'. Murugan was married to Devasena upon the hill and for many centuries the Tamil people have considered it the most auspicious place for their own marriages, especially during the time of the Pankuni Uttiram, the festival of marriage held in late March. Besides the fantastic temple to Murugan on the hill, there is also a Muslim shrine dedicated to 'Sekunder' ([al-Sikandar or Alexander the Great](#)) who is associated with Murugan by the Muslim pilgrims. "Sikandar was a friend of Murugan at the time when Murugan was King here," they say.

Tirupparankundram is situated three miles southeast of Madurai on the main railway line. It is one of the [Aru Padai Veedugal](#) or six sacred places selected by Lord Subrahmanya for his abode. The importance of this temple is that here was celebrated the marriage of Lord Subrahmanya with the daughter of Indra, [Devayanai](#).

Long, long ago, when Lord Subrahmanya was staying at Kanda Verpu, the two daughters of Lord Maha Vishnu, Amrita Valli and Sundara Valli, cherished the desire of becoming the consorts of Subrahmanya. With this aim in mind they both went to Saravana Poigai and commenced austere penance to fulfil their desires.

Pleased with their prayer and worship, Lord Subrahmanya appeared before them and told Amrita Valli, "You will be brought up by Indra as his daughter and I shall marry you in due course." Her younger sister Sundara Valli was also graced with a similar blessing. She was born to sage Sivamuni and brought up by Nambi, the headman of Veddas.

Amrita Valli took the form of a female child and went to Mount Meru, the abode of Indra, and told him, "I am the daughter of Maha Vishnu and the responsibility of looking after me has been entrusted to you." On hearing this, Indra became very happy and directed Airavatam, his white elephant, to take care of the child.

The elephant with all love brought her up and affection and she attained the age of marriage in course of time. Hence she came to be known as Devayanai, one who was brought up by the heavenly elephant of Indra (*yānai* in Tamil means elephant).



Teyvānai Amman, daughter of Indra, who married Lord Muruga at Thiruparankundram

The six sons of sage Parasara were cursed to become fishes in the Saravana Poigai. On request for redemption, these six boys were ordered to pray to Lord Subrahmanya.

When they got his darshan, they could get redemption. It was also made known to them that Lord Subrahmanya would come to Tirupparamkunram after vanquishing the demon Surapadma. Anxiously they waited for the arrival of Subrahmanya.

When the mission of Subrahmanva to vanquish Surapadma was over at [Tiruchendur](#), on his way, he came to this spot followed by all the devas and heavenly beings whom he had released from the untold miseries caused by Surapadma.

On his arrival at Thiruparankundram, the sons of Parasara received Subrahmanya and, at their request, he consented to stay there. He at once ordered Viswakarma to construct a beautiful abode for himself, for the devas and for others.

He also suggested to the heavenly architect to build roads and erect a city around them. Indra, the king of the angels, desired to get his daughter Devayanai married to Subrahmanya, as a mark of his gratitude for relieving him and the devas from the depredations of the demon Surapadma.

He expressed his desire to Brahma and Vishnu who were present there. They were only too glad to hear the proposal. When they communicated the desire of Indra to Lord Subrahmanya he readily agreed to it and said: "Devayanai has been praying at Saravana Poigai in the Himalayas for this happy marriage. Now the time has come for its being solemnised." As Subrahmanya agreed to this marriage, Indra sent a messenger to bring his wife Indrani and daughter Devayanai from Mount Meru.

The marriage took place at Thiruparankundram, after the victory of Subrahmanya over Surapadman. All arrangements for marriage were made and the marriage was performed at the Tirupparamkunram Temple. All the devas, Siva and Parvati attended the marriage and blessed Subrahmanya and Devayanai. Since then, the temple has become a very famous abode of Subrahmanya.

Text courtesy of [R.K. Das](#)

Photos



Tirupparankundram gopuram and hill



Tirupparankundram tiru kulam and hill



Kulam beside Tiruparankundram Temple

Legends of Tiruparankundram

By R. K. Das

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See this Video:

<https://youtu.be/iV2cfThnVtg>

10 FAQs on Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple

What is the significance of Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple for tourists?

Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple, located in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, is one of the six abodes of Lord Murugan (Arupadai Veedu) and is revered for its religious importance and architectural grandeur. Tourists visit this temple to witness its ancient rock-cut architecture, intricate carvings, and to participate in the vibrant festivals celebrated here. It is also a place where mythology and history blend, making it fascinating for those interested in Indian culture and heritage.

How do I reach Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple?

Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple can be reached by various modes of transport. The nearest airport is the Madurai International Airport, which is about 10 kilometers away. From the airport, you can hire a taxi or take a bus to the temple. Madurai has its own railway station, and Thiruparankundram has a smaller station as well. Local buses, auto-rickshaws, and taxis are readily available from any part of Madurai city to reach the temple.

What are the visiting hours for Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple?

Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple is typically open to visitors from 5:30 AM to 1:00 PM and then from 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM. However, the timings may vary on special occasions and festival days, so it's advisable to check the current timings before planning your visit.

Is there an entry fee for Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple?

No, there is no entry fee for visiting Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple. However, if you wish to engage in special rituals or offerings, there may be specific charges for those services.

What is the best time to visit Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple?

The best time to visit Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple is during the cooler months of October to March. The temple festivals, like Skanda Sashti and Panguni Uttiram, which are usually celebrated in October-November and March-April respectively, draw large numbers of devotees and tourists, offering a rich cultural experience.

What are the accommodations like near Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple?

There are various accommodation options available near Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple, ranging from budget hotels to luxury resorts. Many visitors also choose to stay in

Madurai city, which offers a wider range of hotels and is only a short drive away from the temple.

Can non-Hindus visit Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple?

Yes, Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple is open to people of all faiths. However, non-Hindus may not be allowed to enter the innermost sanctum of the temple, which is a common practice in many Hindu temples. Visitors are expected to dress modestly and follow the temple's code of conduct.

Are there any guidelines for photography at Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple?

Photography is generally allowed in the temple premises, but it is prohibited inside the main shrine. Tourists should observe and respect signage regarding photography restrictions. It's always a good practice to ask for permission if you're unsure.

Are there any dining options near Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple?

There are several local eateries and restaurants near Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple offering traditional South Indian cuisine. Additionally, the town of Madurai, famous for its culinary delights, is nearby and has a wide variety of dining options catering to different tastes and budgets.

Is there any special dress code to follow while visiting Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple?

Visitors are expected to dress modestly while visiting Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple. Traditional attire is recommended, but not mandatory. Avoid wearing shorts, sleeveless tops, and other revealing clothes as a sign of respect for the temple's customs and practices.

Ref: ramanathan78.blogspot.com

Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple

South-west from Madurai there is a granite hill rising like an enormous elephant 300 metres above the surrounding plain and visible far away. Here is located one of the most sacred Tamil Hindu shrines - Murugan Temple in **Thiruparankundram**. Temple consists of more ancient rock-cut parts and newer constructions in front.

Ancient legends:

It is possible that the worship history of this hill goes far into the past, may be even well before Hinduism appeared. There are many legends associated with this mountain.

Thus, the hill is considered to be the "Southern Himalaya" where the gods assemble. There is also a legend that this is the place where Sun and Moon take a rest.

Feat and marriage of Muruga:

Thiruparankundram is one of the six main pilgrimage sites for the devotion of the son of Shiva - Muruga (also Subramanya), Tamil Hindu god of war and patron of Tamil Nadu.

Story goes that Muruga with his troops rested here after one of his famous six battles against demons. Finally he saved Heaven by defeating the evil rakshasa Soorapadman and returned to Thiruparankundram Hill followed by all the liberated deities. At this beautiful hill, which opens a wide view on the lively landscape of Tamil Nadu, in the temple he married Devasena (Deivayanai), daughter of Indra given to him as a gift for victory. Marriage took place in the presence of all deities.



Temple of marriage:

Since such important events happened, Murugan Temple in Thiruparankundram became one of the most revered shrines in Tamil Nadu. Up to this day Tamil people readily marry here. Many couples get married in the festival of marriage - Pankuni Uttiram - in late March.

Temple leads a very active religious life with numerous festivities and Thiruparankundram for most part of the year is teeming with life.

As if there is not enough importance and relevance, on the top of the hill there is also a Muslim shrine devoted to Sekunder - Alexander the Great! Local Muslims consider that Alexander the Great was the friend of King Murugan. Thus Thiruparankundram is a place where both Hindu and Muslims go well together.

Short history of the temple:

According to another tale King Harishchandra worshipped Shiva from this hillock and gained eternal wisdom. Thus he built a temple here - the temple was complete with Praharams (ambulatories), walls, Gopurams (gate towers) and steps.

The "real history" (who can differentiate myths and reality in the Indian past?) The temple may start with the 8th century AD when Pandya rulers built a rock-cut temple.

Later, during the reign of Nayaks of Madurai (1559 - 1736 AD) the temple was supplemented with beautiful gopurams and beautified. An extensive and beautiful front part (mugha mandapam) with 48 ornate pillars carved during the rule of Pandya and Nayaks.

Description of the temple:

Presiding deities of the temple are Lord Muruga and Goddess Devasena. Other deities - Shiva, Vishnu, Durga and Ganapathy - are represented as well.

Entrance in the ancient cave temple leads through a row of massive square pillars ornamented with lotus-shaped medallions.

Inside the cave temple there has been preserved ancient painting of Nataraja - dancing Shiva. Cave temple also contains the sculpture of presiding deity Sri Subramaniaswamy (Muruga).

Rock-cut temple also contains 41 inscriptions revealing the early history of the temple.

Before the ancient rock-cut temple there is built the front part - mugha mandapam.

Separate entrance leads into Sani Bhagawan - another shrine in this temple. In the western side there is a rock-cut chamber which houses the lingam but in the eastern side there is one more shrine with Vishnu and Durga opposite to him. Temple contains many more carvings of deities.

In the south-eastern part of Kambaththadi mandapam there has been found a 30 m long tunnel.

Temple also contains two historical wooden carts which are used for ceremonial purposes in certain processions.



Worship Timings:

Morning: 5.00 AM to 1.00 PM Evening: 4.00 PM to 9.00 PM

In the kasi Viswanathar temple at the hill daily one kalam pooja is performed by 9.00 A.M. The holy water for performing the poojas is taken from the SaravanaPoigai. A priest sitting on elephant brings water in a Kalasam daily in Procession Accomplished by Nadhaswaram. The festival Deity idol is brought from the sanctum sanctorum 3 times daily and placed in a palanquin and taken in procession around the flag moat accomplished by Nadhaswaram.

Daily Poojas:

In this temple daily pooja rituals are conducted according to the kamika aghamam. The festivals are conducted as per the Karana aghamam. Sri skantha sasti festival is conducted as per the kumarathathiram. For Sri Moolasthanam peruman ajitha agama rules are followed.

There are eight kalam(times) of poojas daily and they are as follows:

1. Thiruvanantham 5.30 A.M
 2. Vizha Poojai 7.30 A.M
 3. Kalasanthi 8.00 A.M
 4. Thirukaka santhi 10.00 A.M
 5. Uchikalam 12.00[noon]
 6. sayaratchai 05.30 P.M
 7. Artha Jamam 8.45 P.M
 8. Palliyarai 9.00 P.M
-

Special days in the temple

- Panguni Uthiram - It is celebrated in the month of March
- Vaikasi Visakam - Celebrated in the month of Vaigaasi. Visakam is Lord Muruga's birthday star.
- Kandha Sashti - Kanta Shasti Vratam is observed once a year in the month of 'Aippasi' (October–November) starting from the 'piratamai' the 1st phase of the brightening moon.
- Aadi Krithigai - This is celebrated in the month of May/June.
- Thai Poosam - It is celebrated on the full moon in the month of Thai

Contact details of the temple :

Address:

Sri Subramaniaswamy Temple,
Thirupparankundram, Madurai - 625 005,

Telephone: 0452 -2482248,2484359

How to reach:

The nearest Major Town/City is **Madurai**. 10 km is the distance from Madurai to Thirupparankundram

By Air:

Madurai is the nearest airport.

By Train:

We can reach Madurai via train and then reach Thirupparankundram. Madurai is well connected to many cities in India by rail

By Road:

The Thirupparankundram temple is about 7 km from Madurai in the NH Highway road connecting Madurai to Kanyakumari.

Ref: thiruparankundrammurugan.hrce.tn.gov.in

Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy Temple, Thirupparankundram

About Temple

Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy Temple is situated in the hillock of Thiruparankundram. This is considered to be the first among the six army abodes of lord Muruga.

This sthala has the main deity. Sthalam and temple pond. Thiruparankundram found an important place among the most famous 275 thevara sthalams. It is situated 1050 feet above the sea level.

This sthala is known as Thiruparangiri, Sumanthavanam, Paraasalathalam kumaripuri Vittaluthuruvam, Kanthamadhanam, Kanthamalai, Sathyagiri, Thenparangundram, Thanparangundram, Swaminathapuram and mutharpadaiveedu.

Main Deity : Subramaniya Swamy

Urchavar : Subramaniya Swamy

Goddess : Theivanai

Sthala Tree : Kallathi

Temple Opening Timings

Nadai Opening Time
05:30 AM IST - 01:00 PM IST
04:00 PM IST - 09:00 PM IST
Nadai Closing Time
01:00 PM IST - 03:59 PM IST
Morning : 05.30 A.M to 1.00 P.M
Evening : 4.00 P.M to 9.00 P.M

Pooja Details

S.No. ↑↓	Pooja Name ↑↓	Pooja Timings ↑↓
1	Thiruvananthai pooja	05:30 AM to 06:00 AM IST
2	Vilaa pooja	07:00 AM to 07:30 AM IST
3	Kalasandhi pooja	08:00 AM to 08:30 AM IST
4	Thirukalasandhi Pooja	10:30 AM to 11:00 AM IST
5	Uchikkala Pooja	12:30 PM to 01:00 PM IST
6	Sayaraksha Pooja (Evening)	05:30 PM to 06:00 PM IST
7	Ardhama Pooja	08:30 PM to 09:00 PM IST
8	Palliyarai Pooja	09:00 PM to 09:15 PM IST

Fee Details

S.No. ↑↓	Fees Description ↑↓	Remarks ↑↓	Fees ↑↓
1	Thanga Vel Abhisegam		2000.00
2	Sanmugar Special Archanai		2000.00
3	Urchavar Special Archanai		2000.00
4	Ubaya Thirukalyanam		1000.00

Facilities for Devotees

S.No. ↑↓	Facility Name ↑↓	Facility Location ↑↓
1	Golden Chariot	Temple Inside
2	Marriage Hall	Temple Compound
3	Thulabharam Facility	Temple Inside
4	Tonsure Facility	Very close to Saravanapoigai
5	Library Facility	Near Sasti Mandapam
6	Accommodation Facility	Near Temple
7	Free Footwear Stand	Temple Entrance
8	Drinking Water R.O.	Thiruvachiz mandapam, Kambathadi Mandapam, Near the park, Gust House
9	Wheel Chair	Inside Temple
10	Toilet Facility	Near Thirukoil Shashti Mandapam, Near Saravanapoigai, Near Kriwala Path

Location - Nearest places

S.No.	Location Type	Location	Distance (KM)
1	Airport	Madurai International Airport (Domestic and International Terminal Airport)	10
2	Bus Stand	Periyar Busstand, Madurai	7
3	Hospital	Government Rajaji Hospital Madurai	12
4	Railway Station	Madurai Railway Station	8

Map



Donation Info

See the website, viz: (thiruparankundrammurugan.hrce.tn.gov.in)

Contact Info: Address, Phone No., Email

Arulmigu Subramaniyaswamy Temple

302, Bigcar Street, Ph:0452-2482248, 2482249, Cell No: 6383216565, Madurai,
Thirupparankundram,
Madurai - 625005.

Phone Number : 04522482249

Email : dcmreomdu_31985[dot]hrce[at]tn[dot]gov[dot]in

Ref: tripadvisor.in

Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple

Comments by Visitors



Aditya N D

Bengaluru, India • 123 contributions

👍 0 ...



Unique cave temple one of its kind

Sept 2023 • Solo

Its one of the rare temples dedicated to Lord Karthik and made within a cave - about 10 kms from madurai city. Its is a highly sought after temple especially n Tuesdays. There is a divine feeling the moment you step inside.

Tips : you can take the phone - just keep it switched off. Open the chappals close to the temple. Please avoid the timing of the abhisheka as darshan is stopped during that time and queues pile up.



Written 8 September 2023



barbtaub2015

Glasgow, UK • 13 contributions

👍 0 ...



Amazing! Not to be missed.

Jan 2023

This incredible temple is cut into a solid granite rock face, and is full of exquisite carvings built in 6th century by the Pandya dynasty. We bought 100-rupee tickets so we got to bypass the crowds and long lines. We had a beautiful darshan (viewing of deity). A very cross guard saw our utter amazement, and she suddenly was very friendly, going out of her way to explain much about the temple. All went well until some old geezer who was waving a fan made of peacock feathers on a long pole at each visitor suddenly whapped me across the top of my head. (Still hurts) But then the temple elephant gave me a "blessing" by patting me on the head. So I figure it was a draw. The elephant patted my friend's head...

[Read more](#) ✓

Written 8 February 2023



SureshKoo

Bengaluru, India • 15 contributions

👍 0 ...



Visit to Thiruparankundram Temple

Jan 2020

Hi! We visited this temple in January end this year. It is a lovely temple and has Vishnu and Shiva facing each other in the main shrine.(very rare) You need to specially ask the priest for this view as it is not visible otherwise. The temple is relatively empty in the morning around 9-10am. You also need to enquire to see the main gopuram as it is not visible from the front entrance.

Written 13 February 2020



Rajalekshmy

Ernakulam, India • 21 contributions

👍 0 ...



Interesting temple cut into the rocks

Jun 2019 • Family

It's a beautiful temple cut into the rocks.

For easy darshan, there is a fee of Rs.50 per head which is very convenient.

The deities carved in rocks will amaze you. Calm temple away from the city. There is a huge 'ratha' in front of the temple which is a good sight.

While visiting with elderly people, please be aware that there are lots of steps to climb which might be difficult for them.

Written 3 July 2019



kamal c

Ulhasnagar, India • 50 contributions

👍 0 ...



Differently Divine!

Nov 2018 • Couples

An excellent temple to visit while going or coming from Madurai. Meenakshi temple has its own charm. But this temple of God Kartikeiye..is simply amazing. The aura. The build. All Divine. Carved inside the mountain.. It feels totally different. Lesser known but best to know.

Written 21 May 2019



Viral Arya

New Delhi, India • 634 contributions

👍 1 ...



The Kartikeya Temple

Feb 2019 • Family

Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple also known as Kartikeya Temple is a must visit temple located 8kms from Meenakshi Amman Temple Madurai. The temple is dedicated to Hindu God Kartikeya, son of God Siva and Goddess Parvati.



Written 28 February 2019



Suniel Bharwani

Mumbai, India • 107 contributions

👍 0 ...



Benign power of lord Murugan

Nov 2018 • Friends

Was driven down directly to this Murugan Temple from the Madurai Airport. Didn't fathom initially would be able to visit one of Lord Murugan's one of the most Venerated Temples just around 15 minutes from the Madurai Airport. The Temple it appears is etched out from a rocky hill since its rock cut architecture is very evident. The temple was very crowded during early evening, had to jostle for a darshan amidst uncomfortable humidity. The temple has notable Shrines of other deities too carved out of the rock, notable was a carving of Lord Vishnu in a Shaivite Temple. Couldn't meditate or fix an inner concentration due to the presence of huge crowd but could feel a fiery centrifugal energy with dense concentration in and around the Sanctum and the presence of Goddess Durga's mighty Shakthi palpable to one's antahkarana.

[Read less](#) ^

Written 25 December 2018



ajith k

20 contributions

👍 0 ...



MARRIAGE GOD

Oct 2018 • Couples

This is one of 6 auspicious places related to Lord Subrahmanium. Situated on a small hillock, deity is along with his 2 wives. There is a fish pond adjacent to Gurukulam. Place is crowded during weekends and other auspicious days such as Thaipooosam, Krithigai. Paal abhisekam is the special one. 100 rupees for special darshan..

Written 5 November 2018



Lalitha Y

Bengaluru, India • 99 contributions

1



One of the aaru paddai veedu temple

Jun 2018 • Family

1. It's around 9 kms from madurai
2. Oldest temple built in 6th century
3. Many steps inside the temple
4. Place where murugan married devayani
5. Special tickets available for quick darshan
6. Near the temple please try paruthi paal(typical payasam made out of cotton seeds) very yummy.

Written 8 July 2018



Murugappan E

4 contributions

0



Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy Temple, Thiruparankundram

May 2018 • Family

This temple shrine carved out of a rock, The Main shrines for lord Subramaniya Swamy with Deiviyani/ Devasena and sun and moon on the top blessing them on their marriage occasion. separate shrines for Lord Shiva, Lord Vishnu, Goddess Durga, Lord Vinayaka
idols of Lord Shiva and Lord Vishnu face each other, which is a unique aspect in a Hindu temple

Written 10 September 2018



rea2der

Coimbatore, India • 1,914 contributions

0



Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple

Apr 2018 • Friends

I recently visited this temple with friends. The temple is one of the most visited temples in Madurai. The main lord here is lord muruga and it is one of the six abodes of lord muruga. The temple is located near the hill and the temple is always crowded. Food items and special tickets are available nearby.

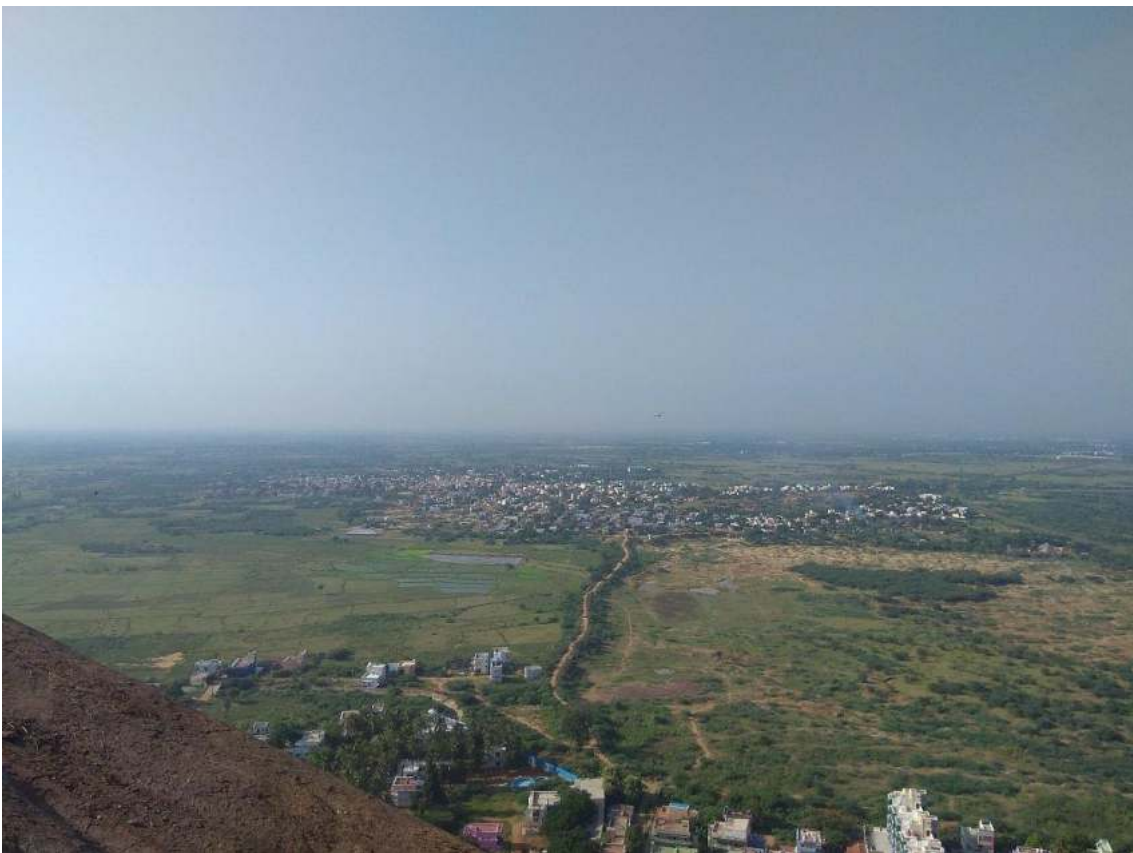
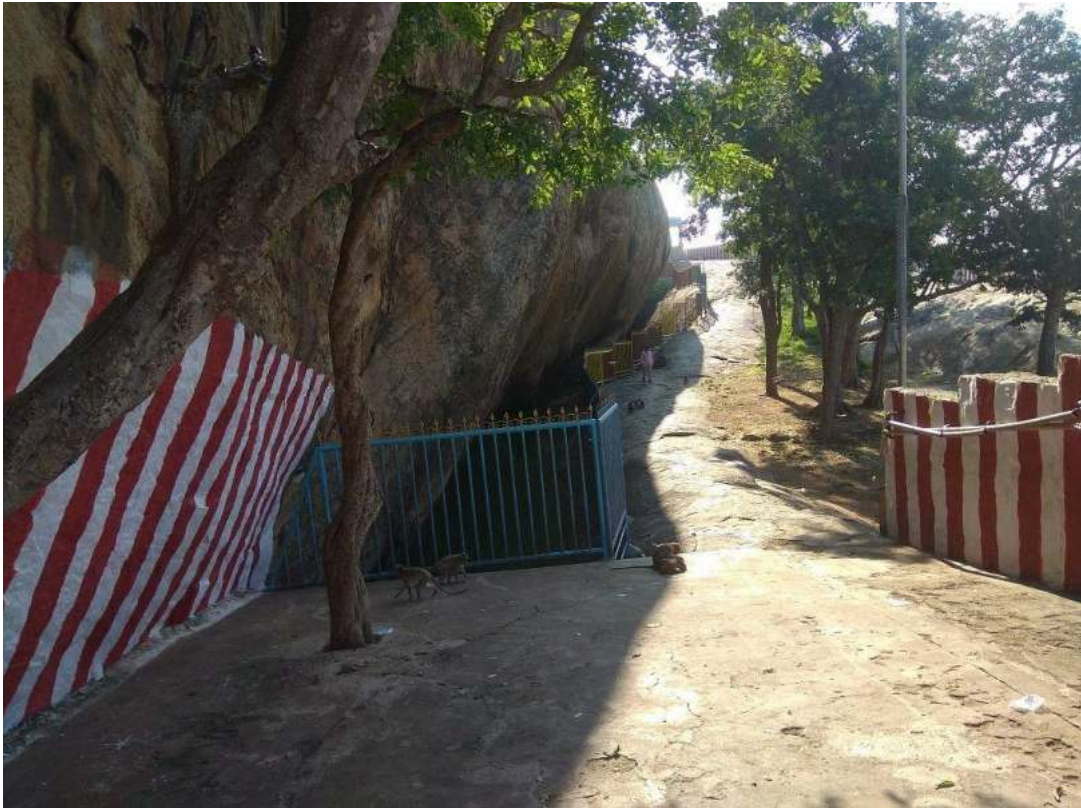


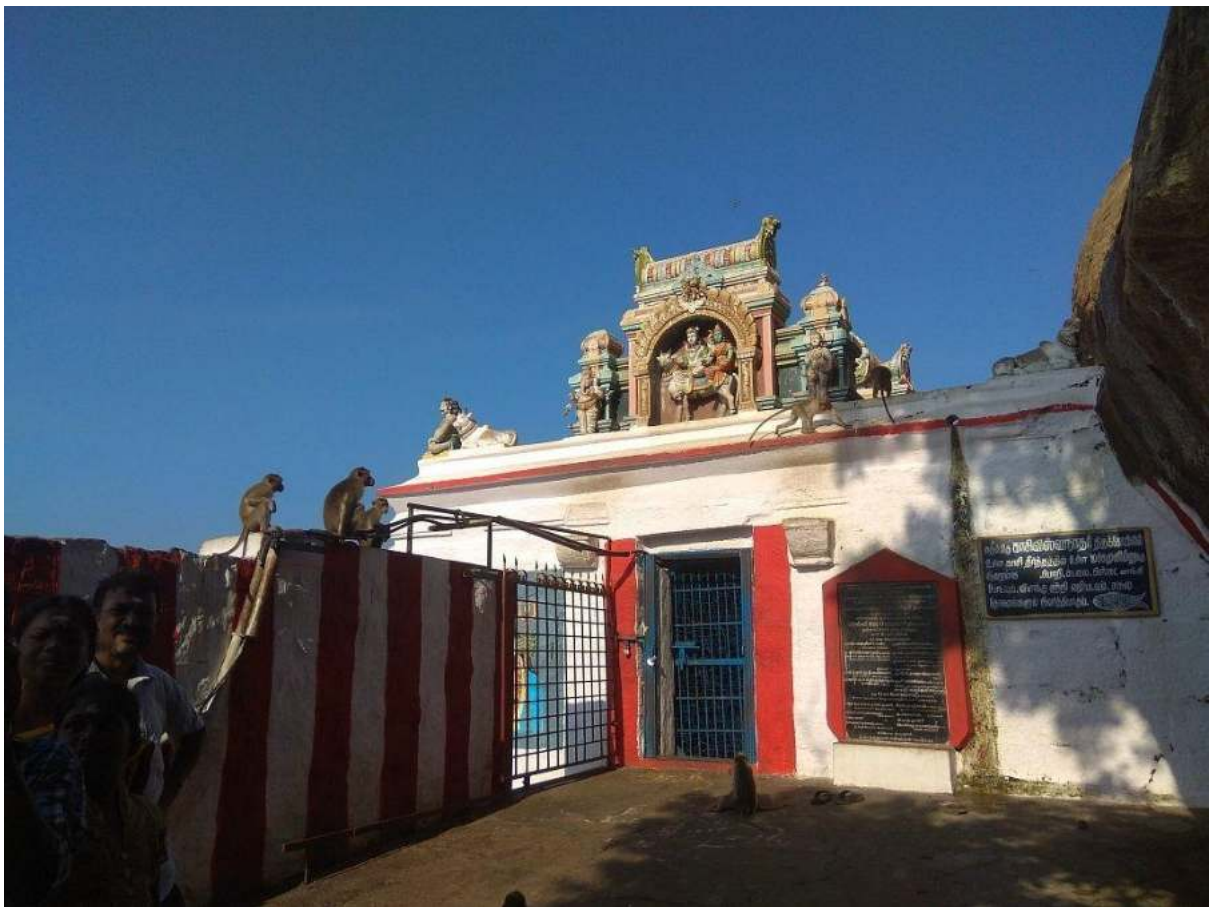
Written 27 April 2018

Photos



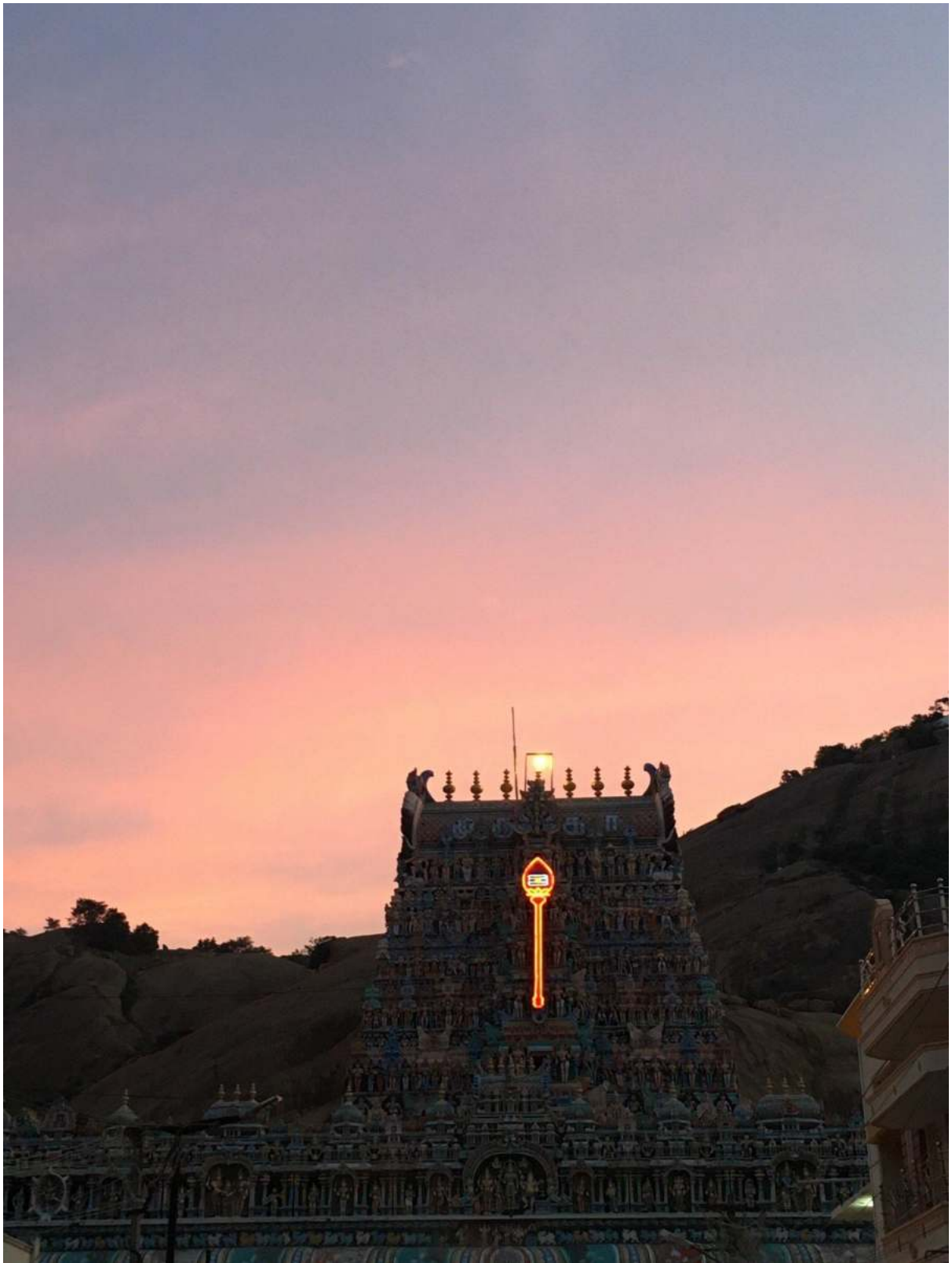
















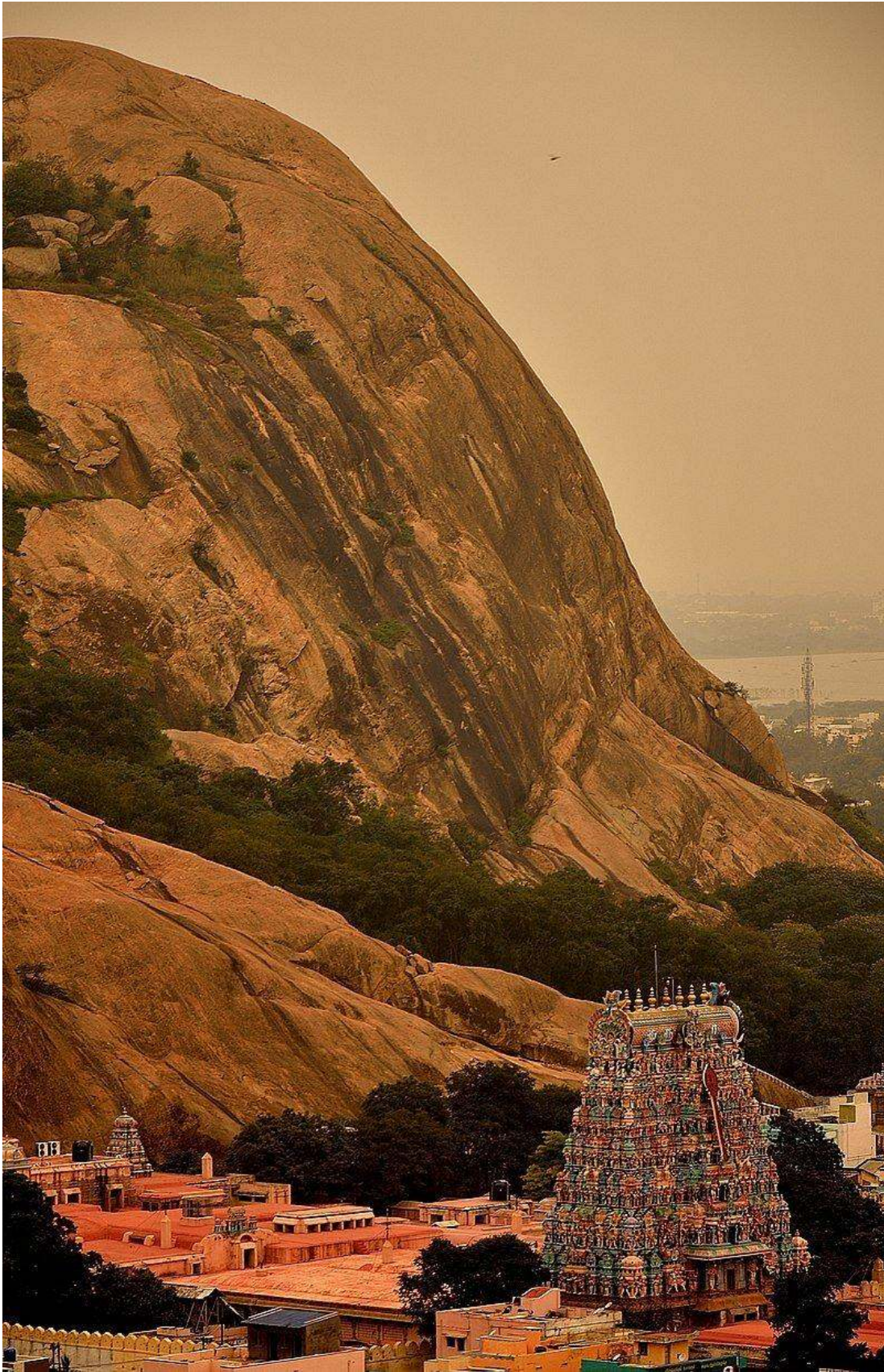


















YouTube Videos

Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple (4 min):

https://youtu.be/FQbnGTtd7DI?si=ztJzf_QVRADBsmES

Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple History (4 min):

<https://youtu.be/bDaEzk-0YIM?si=CyG3q71nUggJ3-jJ>

Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple vlog (4 min):

<https://youtu.be/wEZPLF-3zxl?si=E9bnmxwTvmx8NVjx>

Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple (3 min):

<https://youtu.be/tXPisX2dzNM?si=ut4NqrSJorns48vo>

Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple (2 min):

<https://youtu.be/kH9r79TmUmE?si=rhsengozqYbmTrcS>

Past and present Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple (7 min):

<https://youtu.be/UAEU9jCnQHE?si=mzc6vxB1iZZ7UInf>

Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple (1 min):

<https://youtu.be/t27hPLGwSNw?si=KD2uNF3oXwQmiqjV>

Devotees throng to see the float festival - January 2023 (0.56 min):

https://youtu.be/DP_-4jkYovI?si=w7zKtpdhaBTX4DPV

Exploring the Thiruparankundram area - solo travel (10 min):

<https://youtu.be/Kz6Fplg7dho?si=v4BpAe5KT8xVoyFb>

Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple Rathayatra April 2023 (0.48 min):

https://youtu.be/0I5G_V6ANcE?si=L6e50dyqyfSEPLCc

Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple - Road trip (27 min):

https://youtu.be/b-gLi0QoJB4?si=Dm1OuMTxo5ymi4H_

Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple- News 18 Tamil (39 min):

<https://www.youtube.com/live/QjmYxt5tOlc?si=TKCXL1MA9o84JOCs>

Thiruparankundram Murugan Temple (8 min):

<https://youtu.be/HilZkXYIKnk?si=ddzPHkW068YJwNsp>



9

ॐ स॒ह ना॑ ववतु । स॒ह नो॑ भुनक्तु । स॒ह वी॒र्यं॑ करवावहै । ते॒ज॒स्विना॒वधी॑तमस्तु मा वि॒द्विषा॒वहै॑ ॥ (3)

ॐ शान्तिः॒ शान्तिः॒ शान्तिः॑ ॥ (3)

Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar

**Sri Murugan Temple, Thiruchendur,
Tamil Nadu, India**



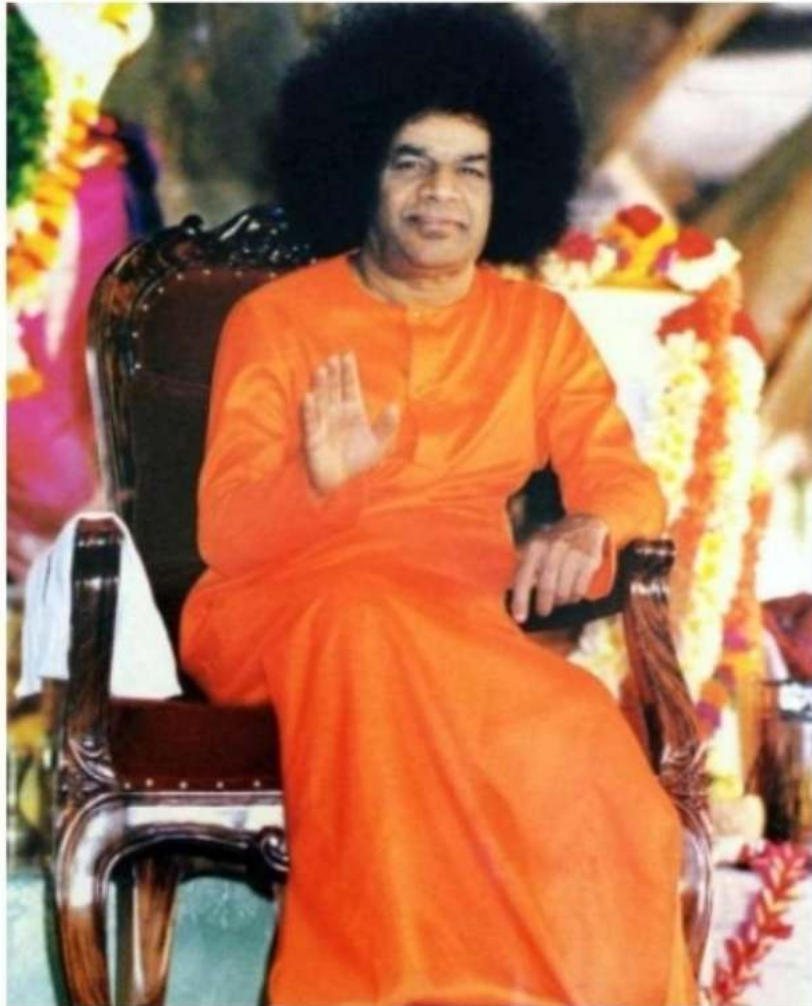
**Compiled by
Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar**

formerly:

- (i) Professor, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering,
St. Joseph Engineering College,
Vamanjoor, Mangalore – 575 028, India
- (ii) Principal, Vivekananda College of Engineering and Technology,
Puttur (D.K.) – 574 203, India
- (iii) Head, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering,
Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues Institute of Technology,
Vashi, Navi Mumbai 400 703, India
- (iv) Senior Scientific Officer and Head,
Cryogenics Section,
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay, Mumbai, India
and
Centre for Advanced Technology, Indore 452013, India

DEDICATION

**This work is lovingly dedicated at the lotus feet of:
Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba**



**There is only ONE caste -The Caste of Humanity
There is only ONE religion –The Religion of Love
There is only ONE language –The Language of the Heart
There is only ONE God –He is Omnipresent**

.....Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba

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PREFACE



This free ebook gives briefly info about: **“Sri Murugan Temple, Thiruchendur, Tamil Nadu, India”**

Details of Temple History, legends, festivals, deities, Timings, address, map, phone number and how to reach there, temple speciality, architecture, facilities for tips for visitors, accommodation and hotels nearby, darshan and Pooja Timings, details of poojas and their cost, contact info, donation info, miracle of temple being unaffected by the 2004 Tsunami, comments by visitors,...etc are given.

Many good photos of the temple and related activities like festivals etc are given.

Links to YouTube Videos give videos relating to the temple, its legend and history, festivals, Kanda Sasti festival, Temple travel vlogs, temple tour...etc

Acknowledgements:

Many of my friends and relatives have actively encouraged me in my attempt to compile this free ebook. I sincerely thank them for their support.

My wife Kala has always encouraged and supported me in all my literary works, sacrificing much of her time. I express my deep appreciation to her.

I have drawn from many references, and YouTube as mentioned in the text.

Finally, I express my immense gratitude to Sri Sathya Sai Baba for His Grace and blessings, prompting me to initiate, continue and complete this work.

Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar,
January 6, 2025
Email: tmuliya@rediffmail.com

Ref: Jayarts.com

Arupadaiveedu - The Six Abodes of Lord Murugan

May 29, 2023

Lord Murugan, commonly known as the “Tamil God”, is the son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvathi and is worshipped by Tamil communities throughout the world. Tamil sangam literature glorifies Murugan as the “Red God seated on a blue peacock, young and beautiful”. Lord Murugan has many names, such as Subrahmanya, Shanmukha, Kaartikeya, Skanda, Kumara, Devasenapati, Saravanabhava, Guha, Swaminathan and many more. In Tamil literature, there are five types of land explained, those being Kurinji (mountainous region), Mullai (forest region), Marutham (agricultural region), Neithal (coastal region) and Palai (desert region). Lord Murugan was the leader of the mountainous region and is called Kurinji Aandavar. Hindus believe that the presiding deity of this kali yugam is Lord Murugan whose weapon, the spear or “Vel”, symbolizes victory, restoring peace, harmony, and destroying all evil forces, therefore Murugan is called “Kaliyugavardhan”.

The story of the six faces of Murugan



Lord Shiva is called Panchaanana, meaning the Lord with five heads. Those five heads represent the five elements of nature, namely, Earth, Water, Fire, Air, and Space. Combine these five elements with Shakti (Pure Consciousness), and Lord Murugan was born. He is called Shadaanana means the six-headed.

Once there was a demon (Asura) named Tarakasura, who was very powerful and defeated all the devas and enslaved them. Tarakasura, through his penance, got a boon from Lord Brahma that he can only die at the hands of the son of Lord Shiva. To save the devas from the asuras, Lord Shiva created a powerful form who would not only defeat Tarakasura, but also become a universal teacher, possessing the highest levels of knowledge.

So Lord Shiva emitted divine fire sparks from his third eye, which represents the element of space, while Agni(the fire God) and Vayu(the Wind God) carried the sparks and dropped them into the sacred River Ganges. The divine mother Ganges carried the sparks in the form of flowing water into the Saravana Poikai Lake, where the sparks were split into six infants. Each infant was placed into their own beautiful Lotus and nurtured by six women called Karthigai Pengal. These women later reached the constellation as six stars. Goddess Parvathi watched the beautiful infants grow, and she embraced all the six boys and gave them one form of Lord Murugan with six heads, and twelve hands. This form of Lord Murugan is known as Arumuga Swami. Fridays are considered auspicious for worshipping Lord Murugan. **Kanda Shastii Kavasam** is a hindu devotional song written by **Devaraya Swamigal**, a powerful piece of Tamil literature sung in praise of Lord Murugan.

Kanda Puranam is one of the greatest religious epics in Tamil literature written by **Kachiappa Sivachariar, the priest of Kumarakottam** in Kanchi. Sivachariar primarily describes the victory of Murugan over the asuras and their King Surapadman, and how Lord Murugan saved the devas from Surapadman. There are also episodes of Skanda's marriages with Deivanai and Valli, and also that of his parents Lord Shiva and Parvathi explained in this epic.

Thaipoosam

Thaipoosam is one of the biggest festivals celebrated in different parts of the world by the devotees of Lord Murugan. The significance of the festival is celebrating the victory of the Lord over the asuras, and that good will always triumph evil. Devotees carry pots of Milk, flowers, and fruits on their shoulders as offerings to the Lord.

The Six Abodes of Lord Murugan

Arupadaiveedu refers to the six abodes of Lord Murugan showing the six different forms of Murugan pertaining to the six different events that took place in his life. The six abodes are **Thiruparankundram, Thiruchendur, Palani, Swamimalai, Thiruthani and Pazhamudircholai**.

The poet **Nakeerar** of the Sangam Age has sung many songs in praise of Murugan, and the most well known composition called "**Tirumurugartrupadai**" describes the six most important abodes of Lord Murugan.

The Six Abodes of Lord Murugan are as follows:

1. Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy Temple (Thiruparankundram) - Thiruparankunram, Madurai district - Marriage with Deivanai

The Subramaniam temple at Thiruparankundram is situated six miles south of Madurai. It is a cave-temple located on a small hill which was built in the 8th century by a king named

Maravarman Sundara Pandiyan. Murugan is worshipped as Subramaniyan at the shrine, and this is where he got married to Deivanai, the daughter of Lord Indra.

2. Thiruchendur Murugan Temple (Thirucheeralaivaai) - Thiruchendur, Thoothukudi district - Destroying the asura Surapadman

The main shrine of Murugan is called Senthilnathan, and the two Utsava murtis of Thiruchendur Murugan are Jayanthi Nathar and Shanmukhar. Of all the six abodes, this is the only abode located near the seashore. Lord Murugan destroyed the asura Surapadman here, using his Vel(spear) given to him by his mother Parvathi. He also used the Vel in the naazhi kinaru (sacred well) to get water for the people when there was a drought. The Naazhi Kinaru is located south of the temple and devotees use the well water to cleanse themselves prior to worshipping the deity. The Soorasamharam festival is celebrated every year, rejoicing the victory over Surapadman and the asuras by Skanda, combined with the Kandha Shasti festival.

3. Palani Murugan Temple (Thiruvavinankudi) - Pazhani, Dindigul district - Lost the Gnana Pazham

Lord Murugan enshrines as Lord Dandayuthapaani holding a staff (Dandam) in the popular hill temple of Palani. According to ancient mythology, the origin of the temple is based on a story where the sage Naratha presented the fruit of Knowledge (Gnana pazham) to Lord Shiva. Lord Shiva decided to give it to one of his sons Ganesh and Muruga, and held a competition between the both of them. The competition was that the fruit would be handed over to the son who first circled the world three times. Murugan immediately took his vahana(vehicle), the peacock, and fled to circle the world. But to Lord Ganesh, the world is his parents and nothing else meant more to him. Hence, he walked around his parents thrice, and won the fruit of Knowledge. When Murugan returned, he found that his elder brother had already won the fruit. Out of sheer disappointment and frustration, he left Kailash and stood atop the Palani Hills.

4. Swamimalai Murugan Temple (Thiruverakam) - Swamimalai, kumbakonam - Preaching the Pranava Mantra “OM”

Lord Murugan is worshipped as Balamurugan and as Swaminatha Swami. The temple is said to be the place where Murugan preached the meaning of the Pranava Mantra “OM” to his father Lord Shiva. Hence this abode is known for its uniqueness, where the son is the teacher and the father is the student. The vahana of Murugan in this abode is an elephant instead of the peacock, and it is believed that the elephant, named Airavatha, was gifted to Murugan by Lord Indra.

5. Thiruthani Murugan Temple (Kundruthoraadal) - Thiruthani, Thiruvallur district - Marriage with Sri Valli

Lord Murugan enshrines in this temple as Tanikaslam. In this abode, he got back his inner peace after the war with the asuras. The name Thiruthani means "blissful repose" and it is here that Lord Muruga met Valli and fell in love with her. The divine marriage between Lord Murugan and Sri Valli took place in this abode. The main festival of the temple is Aadi Karthigai, where thousands of devotees carry kavadees (a wooden structure) on their shoulders. The kavadee is symbolic of burdens going on in one's life, and devotees pray to

the Lord to remove their burdens or sufferings. The devotees cheerfully carry the kavadee, singing devotional songs of Muruga, and dance their way up to the temple.

6. Pazhamudircholai Murugan Temple (Pazhamudircholai) - Pazhamudircholai, Madurai district - Darshan to devotees with both his consorts

Lord Murugan in this shrine is known as Kuringi Nilam Kizhavan, and stands along with his consorts Deivanai and Valli, which makes it the only temple amongst the six abodes where he blesses his devotees along with his consorts. The temple is also known as Solaimalai temple, and stands on the slopes of the Alagar hills, about twelve miles east of Madurai. The temple has three shrines worshipping Lord Ganesha, Lord Murugan with his consorts, and Lord Shiva.

The Grand Panel of Arupadaiveedu - The Six Abodes of Lord Murugan



See this video:

<https://youtu.be/kZj3oEJDoOk?si=kWLXCOMLvMVQIyBH>

Ref: Wikipedia

Subramaniya Swamy Temple, Tiruchendur



The **Arulmigu Subramanya Swami Temple, Tiruchendur** is an ancient Hindu temple dedicated to Murugan (Kartikeya). It is second among six abodes of Murugan (*Ārupatai vitukal*) situated in Tamil Nadu, India. It is located in the eastern end of the town Tiruchendur in the district of Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu, India. It is 40 km from Thoothukudi, 60 km south-east of Tirunelveli and 75 km north-east of Kanyakumari. The temple complex is on the shores of Bay of Bengal.

Surasamharam, a reenactment of the victory over Surapadman, and Kanda Shasti, a devotional song in praise of Murugan are performed at the temple.

The temple is the fourth Hindu temple in Tamil Nadu to get ISO certification

Legend

Thiruchendur finds mention in the Skanda Puranam detailing the slaying of Surapadman by the god Murugan. As per Hindu legend, the demon king Surapadman, once obtained boons from the god Shiva on account of severe penance. He started ruling the world on account of the power attained. He married Padumakomalai and had several sons. Viramkendiram, a city created in the seas, became his capital and he started troubling the devas (the gods). He imprisoned Indra (the king of the gods) and also desired Indra's wife Indrani. Indra sought the help of Shiva's son and the god of war Murugan. Murugan sent his messenger Viravakutevar to the demon, who remained unmoved. A severe battle was fought in Thiruchendur where Murugan killed all the sons of the Surapadman except Iraniyan. Surapadman hid under the sea. Murugan split him into two pieces, which went on to become the god's divine vehicles, peacock and rooster. The day when Murugan slayed Surapadman is celebrated as Skanda stival in all the Murugan temples.

Vaippu Sthalam

It is one of the shrines of the Vaippu Sthalams sung by Tamil Shaivite Nayanar Appar.

Architecture

The temple, which is built near the seashore, measures 91 m (299 ft) north to south, 65 m (213 ft) east to west, and has a nine-tier gopuram, or tower gate, that is 157 feet (48 meters) high.^[6] The principal entrance faces south, and opens into the first of two prakarams, the first of which is lined with rows of yalis. The inner sanctum of the temple is in a cave and the main deity, or mulavar, is Murugan as a saintly child, portrayed in a granite carving.^[7] Nali Kinaru, a sacred well fed by a freshwater spring, is located 100 m (330 ft) south of the temple. Devotees undergo a ritual cleansing by bathing in water from the well after bathing in the ocean

History

Dutch occupation of the Tiruchendur Temple

Main article: Dutch Occupation of the Thiruchendur Temple



Rajagopuram of the temple

The Murugan temple at Tiruchendur was occupied by the Dutch East India Company from 1646 to 1648, during the course of their war with the Portuguese. The local people tried to free their temple, with no success. The Dutch finally vacated the temple on orders from the Naik ruler. However, while leaving, they removed the sculpture depicting the 2 utsava murtis (this representation of the deities comes out only during Masi and Avani Tirunal) which is made of an alloy named Shanmukhar and took it with them. During their sea voyage, they encountered a strong storm and realised their mistake of stealing the murti. They dropped it in the middle of the sea and saw the storm stop immediately. According to legend, Murugan appeared in a dream to Vadamaliyappa Pillai, an ardent devotee of Murugan, and revealed the place in the sea where the idol had been abandoned. Vadamlaiyappa Pillai in the Tiruchendur temple, went to the spot in a fishing boat and retrieved the murti in 1653. The story is shown in paintings inside the temple.

Administration

The temple is maintained and administered by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Ref: holidify.com

Thiruchendur Murugan Temple



Overview

Thiruchendur Murugan Temple is one of the most esteemed religious places of south India. Located right on the beach of Tuticorin District, it attracts millions of devotees over the year paying respect to the in-house deity of Lord Murugan, the Tamil version of Lord Kartikeya. The temple has a very interesting history rooted in the legend of Lord Murugan's first battle, which was also the purpose of his birth. The temple hosts a number of festivals throughout the year when devotees can make offerings to the god, the most important and popular one being Skanda festival during October-November marking the victory in the battle of Thiruchendur. It is one of the few temples in India which has various forms and avatars of both Lord Vishnu and Lord Shiva together. Being located within 200 metres of the sea, it is a miracle that the temple premise is never flooded - not even during the Tsunami.

The mighty temple also does social services like running an orphanage, sponsoring education for the needy and conducting marriages for the poor at minimal cost. People who belong to any other religion other than Hinduism are also allowed to enter with a donation of INR 20.

Temple Timings

The puja timings of the temple are 5:00 AM to 12:00 PM and again 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM. The pujas of each hour have different names and purposes.

Subrapadam - Thirupalli Eluchi- 5:10 AM

Viswaroopam Darshan- 5:30 AM

Dwajasthamba Namaskaram- 5:45 AM
Udaya Marthanda Abishegam- 6:15 AM
Udaya Marthanda Deeparadhanai- 7:00 AM
Kalasandhi Pooja- 8:00 AM - 8:30 AM
Kalasha Pooja- 10:00 AM
Uchikala Abishegam- 10:30 AM
Uchikala Deeparadhanai- 12:00 PM
Sayaratchai Pooja- 5:00 PM
Arthasama Abishegam- 7:15 PM
Arthasama Pooja- 8:15 PM
Ekanda Seva- 8:30 PM
Ragasia Deeparadhanai, Palliarai Pooja- 8:45 PM
Nadai Thirukappiduthal- 9:00 PM

Legend

As described in the Skanda Purana, the demon king Surapadma, blessed with Shiva's boon that none but his son can kill him, unleashed torture over everyone living. Devastated, the gods begged Lord Shiva to save them. This led to the birth of Lord Murugan - born of fire sparks and brought up by the goddess of earth. At a battle at Thiruchendur at Tuticorin, he defeated Surapadma and killed him, and after that worshipped his Lord father, Shiva at this very spot.

Defeating him was the holy purpose of Kartikeya's birth. He went on to become the commander of war for the gods' armies. He defeated the demon's armies and pinned him up to a tree with his spear. From the broken spear emerged a cock and a peacock, whom he took with his banner and as his vaahana. Before and after the war, he camped at the seashore by the Bay of Bengal, and after the war was over, he desired to worship his lord father and ask for his blessings. Hence, Mayan the architect built a shrine where the temple now stands. It is one of the six abodes of Lord Murugan in Tamil Nadu and the only one to be located at the seaside. The other five are situated in Thiruthani, Swamimalai, Palani, Pazhamudircholai, Thirupparankunram, but all of them are atop hills.

Architecture

Originally believed to be a stone structure cut out of the hills, in later years it was renovated and rebuilt with granite. The locally found red sandstone was used for the foundation of the temple, from which the place gets the name 'Senthur' meaning red region.

The RajaGopuram - the very ornate and main doorway of any South Indian temple which acts as an entrance into the temple premise is situated on the western side. The nine-storeyed, 137 feet long and 90 feet wide elaborate structure called Mela Gopuram rises over everything else into the sky of Thiruchendur. This gate is only used during festivals. The main entrance is the southern gate called Shanmukha Vilasa.

The main sanctum sanctorum of the temple is the home to the deity of Lord Murugan in a standing posture alongside Shivalingas, which is a throwback to the legend of the Lord worshipping his father in this place. Before the main sanctorum, in the first corridor, there are shrines, caves and temples dedicated towards his consorts Vali and Deivanai, local hunter king Dattatreya and many deities of Shiva and Vishnu like Nataraj, Kashi Vishwanath and Shankar Narayan.

History of Temple

The earliest records of the temple's existence are some inscriptions dating way back to 875 AD. There is no real documentation of the Thiruchendur Murugan Temple's original construction, but it is known that the Pallavas during the same time, and later other dynasties like Pandyas and Cheras renovated it. Much later, during the Dutch attack of 1649 on the Portuguese colonies of Tuticorin, the Governor of the attackers, Joan Maetsuycker ordered to fortify the temple and use it as a garrison. The Dutch soldiers looted the treasures of the holy place while the locals made vain attempts to save it.

After a formal complaint to the Nayak, the mediator, he advised the Dutch to leave; but they took the main deity away with them. The local legend says how the Lord himself showed up in the dreams of Vadamalaiyappa Pillaiyyan, the local governor of Tirunelveli, and directed him to the spot in the sea where he would find the idol floating. However, according to history, it was returned after much negotiations and letter-exchange.

Festivals Celebrated

Masi and Avani festivals: Twice a year, the temple Brahmotsavams are held for 12 long days. Masi is held during February-March and Avani is held during August-September. In both the festivals, the Lord's deity is taken out during the 7th, 8th and 9th day and housed in the Shanmukha Vilasa Mandapam for all the devotees to have a glimpse and pay respects. On the 10th day, the deity is taken out for a procession of temple cars into the city.

In the Avani festival, only two cars are there, whereas in Masi all three of them are out. The Theppam floating takes place on the 11th day of the Masi festival. People come in hundreds and thousands to celebrate these festivals in the temple and have a view of the Lord.

Vasant Festival: In the month of Chithirai (April-May), the ten days long Vasant festival takes place in the temple. The deity of Murugan and his consorts Valli and Deivanai are taken out of their respective sanctums and placed in the Vasanta Mantap for the gathered devotees to view and offer prayers.







Vaikasi Visagam: On the Visakam day, Special Abishegam for Lord Shanmuga is performed and during the night time, the procession of the lord and his consorts takes place. It is usually held in the month of May-June.

Skanda Sasti Festival: Held during October-November for 7 days, this festival marks the defeat of the demon king Surapadma in the hands of Murugan. Devotees gather in lakhs during this main festival of the temple. On the sixth day, Soorasamharam, a folk-dance representation of the battle between the two is enacted for the devotees. On the seventh, the wedding between Murugan and Deivanai is celebrated.

How To Reach?

The nearest airport to the temple is Tuticorin airport at 40 km and the nearest train station is Thiruchendur railway station. From both the places, there are buses, cabs and autos that go to the temple. The place can also be reached from other main cities like Madurai or Chennai by long-distance buses.

Top Hotels Near Thiruchendur Murugan Temple

 Regency Tuticorin by GRT Hotels... ★ ★ ★ 📍 5 kms ₹ 5,250 onwards	 SRM Hotel ★ ★ ★ 📍 2 kms ₹ 3,999 onwards	 Hotel Geetha International... ★ ★ ★ 📍 2 kms ₹ 3,300 onwards
 Kani Residency Hotel ★ ★ ★ 📍 0 kms ₹ 3,800 onwards	 Hotel Nakshatra Inn VL Tuticorin... ★ ★ ★ 📍 1 kms ₹ 1,800 onwards	 Hotel DSF Grand Plaza ★ ★ ★ 📍 1 kms ₹ 4,500 onwards

Reviews



Shanmuga Rajan P on Thiruchendur Murugan Temple 3 years ago

One who follows the systems has an excellent experience !! Though crowds are common during festival seasons ,the management has taken good standard operating procedures to enable the common man without spending a single paisa to have dharshan without wasting much time !!



Sughirtha Anbu on Thiruchendur Murugan Temple 4 years ago

Best one to visit filled with peace you must definitely visit once in your life if you are devotee of lord muruga . It is surrounded by beach and has more historical stories

Other Top Ranking Places In Tuticorin



Thiruchendur Murugan Temple

#4 among 15 places



Our Lady of Snows Basilica

#5 among 15 places



The Beach

#6 among 15 places



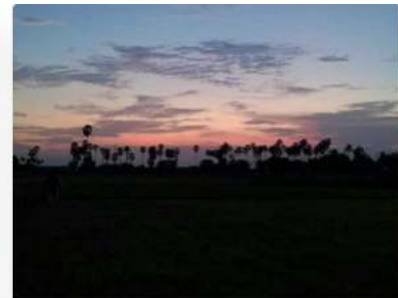
Kattabomman Memorial Fort

#7 among 15 places



Ettaiyapuram Palace

#8 among 15 places



Ottapidaram

#9 among 15 places

Ref: thetemples.in

Thiruchendur Murugan Temple

Author: Arti, September 22, 2024

Thiruchendur Thirukoil, the second of the Arupadai Veedu (Six Abodes of Murugan), is a magnificent temple located on the shores of the Bay of Bengal in the extreme southwest of the Indian Peninsula. This ancient temple, believed to be 2000-3000 years old, is a testament to the rich cultural and religious heritage of Tamil Nadu.

Thiruchendur Thirukoil is dedicated to Lord Muruga, also known as Seayon in ancient literature. The temple's significance is deeply rooted in Tamil culture, with references in Sangha literature and Silapathikaram.



Highlights

Feature	Details
Name	Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple
Location	Tiruchendur, Tamil Nadu - 628215, Thoothukudi District
Regular Timings	4:00 AM to 9:00 PM (subject to change during festivals)
Significance	Second of the Arupadai Veedu (Six Abodes of Murugan)
Age	Believed to be 2000-3000 years old
Architectural Highlight	157-foot high tower with nine floors
Unique Feature	Rajagopuram is located in the west direction due to the sea in the east
Main Deity	Lord Muruga as Devasenathapathy
Special Attribute	Lord Muruga graces with a lotus flower in his right hand

Temple Timings

Particulars	Opening Time	Closing Time
Mon-Sun	4:00 AM	9:00 PM

Festival Day Timings

During the festivals, there can be changes in the temple timings. Kindly check below:

Festival/Month	Opening Time	Closing Time
Margazhi month	3:00 AM	8:00 PM
Vaikasi Visakam	1:00 AM	9:00 PM
Masi and Avani festivals (1st and 7th day)	1:00 AM	9:00 PM
Masi and Avani festivals (other days)	3:00 AM	9:00 PM
Kantha Sashti festival (1st and 6th day)	1:00 AM	9:00 PM
Thai Poosam	1:00 AM	9:00 PM
Panguni Uthram	4:00 AM	9:00 PM

Pooja Details and Prices

Pooja Type	Price (INR)
Maniyadi Viraiyu Dharisanam	100
Abishekam	1,500
Golden Car	2,500
Shanmugar Archanai	5,000

Other Services

Service	Cost (INR)	Time
Abishegam Dharshan - Normal Days	500	12:00 AM - 06:00 PM
Abishegam Dharshan - Special Days	2000	12:00 AM - 06:00 PM
Abishega Poojai	1500	12:00 AM - 05:00 PM
Astothram Archanai - Online	5	12:00 AM - 05:00 PM
Sahasranama Archanai - Online	10	12:00 AM - 05:00 PM
Shanmugar Archanai	5000	12:00 AM - 05:00 PM
Worship in Tamil - Online	5	12:00 AM - 05:00 PM

Points To Remember

- You can get special entry tickets from the temple premises for Rs.100.
- Men are supposed to remove their upper clothes before entering the temple.
- No Cameras or mobile phones are allowed inside the temple.
- You must take a dip in the sea nearby before entering the temple.
- The temple is crowded on weekends.

Nearby Places to Visit

1. **Tiruchendur Beach:** Located right next to the temple, this beach offers a serene atmosphere for relaxation and beautiful views of the Bay of Bengal.
2. **Manapad Beach:** About 20 km from Tiruchendur, this pristine beach is known for its clear waters and is popular among surfers.
3. **Our Lady of Snows Basilica:** Located in Tuticorin, approximately 40 km from Tiruchendur, this historic church dates back to the 16th century and is an important pilgrimage site for Christians.
4. **Kulasekarapattinam Mutharamman Temple:** Around 25 km from Tiruchendur, this temple is famous for its grand Dussehra celebrations and unique Dasara festival.
5. **Thiruchendur Murugan Temple Museum:** Located within the temple complex, this museum houses ancient artifacts and provides insights into the temple's history.
6. **Kayalpattinam Beach:** About 15 km from Tiruchendur, this beach is known for its scenic beauty and is a great spot for watching sunsets.
7. **Tiruchendur Lighthouse:** Situated near the temple, this lighthouse offers panoramic views of the surrounding area and the Bay of Bengal.
8. **Sawyerpuram Church:** Located about 30 km from Tiruchendur, this historic Protestant church was built in 1850 and showcases beautiful architecture.
9. **Kulasekaranpattinam Bird Sanctuary:** Approximately 20 km from Tiruchendur, this sanctuary is a haven for bird watchers, especially during the migratory season.
10. **Azhagiya Nambi Temple:** Located in Tiruchendur itself, this ancient Vishnu temple is worth a visit for its historical and architectural significance.

Nearby Restaurants

1. **Hotel Selva Ganapathy:** A popular vegetarian restaurant known for its South Indian cuisine. Address: 142, Beach Road, Tiruchendur
2. **Hotel Padmavathi:** Offers a variety of vegetarian dishes, including traditional Tamil Nadu meals. Address: 5/72-A, Beach Road, Tiruchendur
3. **Murugan Idli Shop:** Famous for its soft idlis and variety of chutneys. Address: Near Bus Stand, Tiruchendur
4. **Ananda Bhavan:** A pure vegetarian restaurant serving South Indian and North Indian dishes. Address: Beach Road, Tiruchendur
5. **Sri Krishna Vilas:** Known for its tasty vegetarian thalis and quick service. Address: Near Temple, Tiruchendur

Nearby Accommodation

1. **Hotel Tamil Nadu (TTDC):** A government-run hotel offering comfortable rooms at reasonable rates. Address: Beach Road, Tiruchendur Phone: 04639-245210
2. **Hotel Padmavathi:** Offers clean rooms and is conveniently located near the temple. Address: 5/72-A, Beach Road, Tiruchendur Phone: 04639-245653
3. **Hotel Shanmuga:** A budget-friendly option with basic amenities. Address: Beach Road, Tiruchendur Phone: 04639-245231
4. **Hotel Muruga Bhavanam:** Located close to the temple, offering comfortable stays for pilgrims. Address: Near Bus Stand, Tiruchendur Phone: 04639-245424
5. **Sri Murugan Cottage:** A peaceful option for those seeking a longer stay. Address: Beach Road, Tiruchendur Phone: 04639-245678
6. **Subramaniya Swamy Temple Guest House:** Basic accommodation managed by the temple trust, suitable for pilgrims. Address: Temple Complex, Tiruchendur (Booking to be done through temple administration)

Parking near the Temple

There is a parking facility available near the Temple bus stand for the cost as follows:

Particulars	Details
Car	Rs. 50
Van	Rs. 75
Bus/ Lorry	Rs. 200

How to Reach

Particulars	Details
Airport	Tuticorin Airport
Railway Station	Tiruchendur Railway Station
Bus Stand	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Temple Bus Stop• Tiruchendur Bus Stop• Thoothukudi

Thiruchendur Murugan Temple

Tiruchendur, a tiny but beautiful coastal town located in the Thoothukudi district in the southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu. The Thiruchendur Murugan Temple attracts millions of devotees every year who come to pay respect to the in-house deity of Lord Murugan.

The temple's history is rooted in the story of Lord Murugan's ultimate battle, which is widely believed by many as the purpose of his birth. It is one of the only few temples in India which houses various avatars of Lord Vishnu and Lord Shiva within the same boundary.

The shrine at Thiruchendur was built as a symbol to mark the victory of Lord Murugan over the demon king Surapadman after a long vicious battle. As the legend says, after Lord Murugan finished Surapadman, he wanted to thank his father Shiva, for which he summoned the divine architect Mayan and the shrine was laid.

Story Behind the Temple

Surapadman, the demon king, reigned over Veera Mahendrapuri, an island fortress. Lord Shiva granted him many boons as the Lord was impressed by Surapadman's immense devotion and loyalty. Surapadman became more and more powerful with time, and with the immortality he possessed, it wasn't much longer for his arrogance to take over. He rebelled and successfully captured all the three worlds—Heaven, earth, and hell. He made the Devas, the heavenly immortals, to do menial tasks. The Devas fed up and unable to bear his torture and complained to Lord Shiva. As Lord Shiva's third eye opened to create six sparks of fire emanated and gave rise to six babies. As the babies were clasped by Goddess Uma, they joined together, which gave birth to Lord Murugan, a god with six faces and twelve arms who was crafted to fulfill one purpose, get Surapadman's head. An intense battle ensued, which was fought for a few days after Surapadman refused to release the devas. This resulted in Surapadman's demise and the birth of Murugan's signature vahana, the peacock. Lord Muruga desired to worship his father, Lord Shiva. Hence Mayan, the divine architect, constructed this shrine at Tiruchendur. Even now, Lord Subramaniyan is seen in the posture of worshipping Lord Shiva in the sanctum sanctorum. The Temple is said to be two thousand years old and has overcome the adversities of time.

The Temple was captured by the Dutch East India company between the years 1646 to 1648, on course of their war with the Portuguese. The Dutch finally agreed to vacate the Temple on orders from the Naik ruler but not before they looted away the idols and took them along to Galle, Dutch Ceylon. The idols were finally returned after many negotiations with the ruler. This incident has many stories associated with it, to which even science doesn't offer any explanation.



The Ancient Architecture



The beauty of The Thiruchendur Murugan Temple is mesmerizing. A vast mandapam adorns the entrance of the main temple, which has 124 pillars. The principal gate of the temple faces the south and opens into the first temple prakaram. It is SiviliMandapam. The foremost western Gopuram stands on the outer side of this doorway. A humongous entrance tower, measuring up to 140 feet! Clearly justifies the temple being among the largest temple complexes in South India, There are nine Kalasams (sacred copper pots) atop the Gopuram to indicate that the Gopuram consists of 9 storeys. Welcoming the devotees stands a giant idol of Lord Ganesha. The shrine of Venkatesh depicts the twelve Alvars, Gajalakshmi, Pallikonda Ranganathar, Sridevi, Bhudevi, and Neeladevi.

Miracles

Like most of the ancient structures in India that have a string of seemingly unbelievable tales and miracles attached to them, the Thiruchendur temple, too, has its share of unexplainable events that make it a legend.

The Dutch curse

One such story goes back to the time when the desire for power and greed lured the Europeans across the Asian subcontinent. Most of their conquests were in vogue. Ancient India was touted as The World's Golden Bird with a trade network spreading as far as Egypt and Greece.

Hence most conquests were flagged off with the sole intention of greed-driven plundering. When a group of Dutch mercenaries stumbled upon the temple in Thiruchendur in 17th century AD, they wreaked havoc looting everything in sight. Even taking along the idol of Murugan, which they foolishly assumed to be entirely made of gold.

But fate had something else in store for them.

Having crossed only a few nautical miles, they fell prey to a storm so daunting that the sailors began to believe that it was the wrath of the Lord Murugan from the temple they had looted, which must have triggered the thunderstorm. Frightened out of their minds, they heaved the idol into the ocean.

According to the locals, the ominous demeanor that had set on the skies had only a second ago mysteriously vanished the moment the tip of the statue touched the surface, much to the soldiers' relief. As the mercenaries began to move forward with their journey, the idol sank into the depths of the ocean.

It is said Murugan urged one of the priests who performed the sacerdotal duties in the shrine in his dream to bring back the idol from the clutches of the ocean.

The priest and his accomplices finally managed to retrieve the idol following Murugan's instructions.

Another incident that is sure to give goosebumps to anyone who's hearing. It is not a thing of the past, but quite a recent one.

The 2004 Tsunami

The Thiruchendur temple once again scripted its name in the annals of history for guarding devotees against the onslaught of the lethal The 2004 deadly Tsunami that washed away the shores of the Indian subcontinent did not manage to do any harm or damage to the temple or its devotees. Even today, the incident continues to baffle even the best of skeptics, while believers hail Murugan for being the sole guardian of not just his abode but his devotees as well.

Experiences shared by one of the devotees-

"I would like to share my personal experience with Lord Murugan. I had wanted to offer my hair to the Lord of Tiruchendur since my childhood, and the opportunity came in March 2003 when I, along with my parents, went, and I made the offering to the Lord.

My father, who is 70 years old, had been suffering from severe psoriasis for the past three years. He was taking allopathic treatment, and this was to no avail, instead of resulting in only monetary loss. My father never evinced interest in God and never used to go to temples. Both his hands, right from his elbow to the wrist, were covered with a thick layer of the wound like skin formations and eruptions. He always used to wear a full-sleeved shirt in order to avoid embarrassing looks from others.

I am basically from Nagercoil town (Kanya Kumari district, Tamilnadu state). After having visited my native village, we went to Tiruchendur on 19th March 2003 and offered our prayers to the almighty. I made the hair offering on the 20th the next day. I tonsured my head early in the morning before 6 a.m. and took a bath in the sea.

Later my parents and I went to the temple premises, which was heavily crowded as the previous day was Panguni Uttiram day of Lord Muruga. We went around the temple and finally entered the sannidhi of the Lord. The priests gave us a handful of vibhuti (holy ash), which we promptly smeared on our bodies. My mother and I advised the father to smear it on the affected parts of the skin, and my father obliged. We returned back to Hyderabad on 26th March. My father did not apply any medicine to the skin in the meantime.

Believe me, I swear, on 30th March, lo and behold! I was surprised to see my father was smooth and without any infection. Even my mother could not believe her eyes when she saw this. My father's disease has vanished into thin air. The affected part now looks as normal as any other part of the skin.

Since then, my father started reciting mantras, especially the all-powerful Skanda Shashti Kavacham, and is now a devoted Murugan bhakta. I would like everyone to share my experience and also build credibility in the all-powerful Murugan."

Ravi Shankar

Interesting Facts

- Thiruchendur Murugan is the only Temple out of the six abodes of Muruga, which is located near a seashore while the other five are located in hilly regions.
- It is one of the largest temple complexes (by area) in entire India, and it is one of the most visited temple complexes in India with devotees flocking from countries like Singapore, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, England, and Australia.

- This is the only Temple where Raja Gopura is situated in the western gate. This Temple was not constructed by Kings but was built by three holy saints.
- In terms of wealth and funding, it is one of the top contenders and is among the wealthiest temples in India.

Ref: tiruchendurmurugan.hrce.tn.gov.in

Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple, Tiruchendur

About the Temple



Thiruchendur Thirukoil is the Second place of Arupadai veedu. This sacred house of god is in the extreme south west of the Indian Peninsula. It is located at shore of Bay of Bengal. The young Lord Muruga as the Devasenathapathy vanquishes Evil in the forms of Surapathma. The Tamils have ever since been celebrating the as an annual festival during Skanda Shasti. Lord Muruga is referred to as Seayon in the ancient literature. Mentioned in the Sangha literature and Silapathikaram, this temple is believed to be 2000-3000 years old. This is a beachside temple dedicated to Lord Muruga. The place where this temple is located was earlier known as Thirchiralaikai. The tower of the temple is 157 feet height with nine floors. After conquering Soorapadman, Lord Muruga performed Shiva Puja to express his gratitude for his victory. Here Murugan graces with a lotus flower on his right hand. He also wears a Jadamakutam on his head like Shiva Yogi.

Rajagopuram is located in the west direction of Murugan shrine in Tiruchendur. Lord Muruga looks towards the east in this temple looking at the sea. The main Gopuram was constructed behind to the Swami, (i.e. in the eastern direction) But the tower is built in the west because of the sea in the area. West Raja Gopuram gate is opened only for one day in a year at midnight during Murugan Thirukalyanam during the Kandashashti festival. Devotees are not allowed to enter at that time. During the six-day Kandashashti festival, devotees under fast and worship Lord Muruga.

Temple Timings and Pooja Details

Temple Opening Timings	
Nadai Opening Time	
04:00 AM IST - 12:00 PM IST	
12:00 PM IST - 09:00 PM IST	
Nadai Closing Time	
09:00 PM IST - 09:05 PM IST	
Temple Open From 04:00 A.M to 09:00 P.M Continuously . Temple opening time will be changed on festival days. 1) Margazhi month Temple open at 03.00 A.M and closed at 8.00 P.M 2) During Vaikasi visakam Temple open at 01.00 A.M and closed at 09.00 P.M 3) During Masi and Avani festival the first and seventh day Temple open at 01.00 A.M and closed at 09.00 P.M. On the other festival days temple open at 03.00 A.M and closed at 09.00 P.M 4) During Kantha sashti festival first and sixth festival day Temple open at 01.00 A.M and closed at 09.00 P.M 5) During Thai poosam Temple open at 01.00 A.M and closed at 09.00 P.M 6) During Panguni uthram Temple open at 04.00 A.M and closed at 09.00 P.M	

Pooja Details		
Show 10 entries	Search...	
S.No.	Pooja Name	Pooja Timings
1	Thirukkappu (Opening) (Santhana kappu Alangaram)	04:00 AM to 04:00 AM IST
2	Subrabhadham Pooja (Santhana kaappu Alangaram)	05:10 AM to 05:25 AM IST
3	Viswaroopa Pooja (Santhana kaappu Alangaram)	05:30 AM to 05:35 AM IST
4	Kalasandhi pooja (Thanga kavasam)	08:00 AM to 08:30 AM IST
5	Uchikkala Pooja (Thanga kavasam)	12:00 PM to 12:15 PM IST
6	Sayaraksha Pooja (Evening) (Thanga Kavasam)	05:00 PM to 05:15 PM IST
7	Palliyarai Pooja (Santhana kaappu Alangaram)	08:45 PM to 09:00 PM IST
8	Thirukkappu (Closing) (Santhana kaappu Alangaram)	09:00 PM to 09:05 PM IST
Showing 1 to 8 of 8 entries		Previous 1 Next

Fee Details

Service - Fee Details			
Show 10 entries	Search...		
S.No.	Fees Description	Remarks	Fees
1	Maniyadi viraivu dharisanam		100.00
2	Abishekam		1500.00
3	Golden Car		2500.00
4	Shanmugar Archanai		5000.00
Showing 1 to 4 of 4 entries			Previous 1 Next

Temple facilities

S.No. ↑↓	Facility Name ↑↓	Facility Location
1	Golden Chariot	Shanmuga Vilasam Sea Shore Area
2	Vehicle Parking	Near Temple Bus Stand
3	First Aid Medical Centre	Near Valli Cave North Gate
4	Thulabharam Facility	Near shanmuga vilasa mandapam
5	Tonsure Facility	Near To Nazhikinaru
6	Free Footwear Stand	Opposite to Kavadi Mandabam
7	Drinking Water R.O.	Front of Annadhanam Hall, Near to Raja Gopuram
8	Temple Owned Van Service	Railways station, Thiruchendur Bustand
9	Information Centre	Behind of RajaGopuram
10	Battery Car	Kavadi Mandabam

Institutions

S.No. ↑↓	Temple Category ↑↓	Institution's Name
1	Allopathy Hospitals	First aid medical centre, Tiruchendur
2	Arts, Culture and Science Colleges	Arulmigu subramaniya swamy arts and science college, Vilathikulam
3	Siddha Hospitals	Arulmigu Subramnia Swamy Temple Sidda Hospital, Near devar kudil cottage
4	Veda Agama patasalas	Vedha Aagama paadasaalai, Tiruchendur

Donations

To make it easier for the devotees to pay their offerings, the temple administration has provided a QR code payment facility. Devotees will be able to pay their desired offering quickly by using this new facility.

See below:

QR code



Click the QR code above to donate

Executive officer

Thiru. GNANASEKARAN S

Joint Commissioner / Exec.officer

Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple

Arulmigu Subramaniya Swamy Temple, Tiruchendur, Thoothukudi - 628215.

Landline No. : 04639242221, **Email :** jceotnv_38271[dot]hrce[at]tn[dot]gov[dot]in

Contact info

Arulmigu Subramania Swamy Temple

Arulmigu subramaniya swamy temple,

Tiruchendur,

Thoothukudi - 628215.

Phone Number : 04639242221

Email : jceotnv_38271[dot]hrce[at]tn[dot]gov[dot]in

Ref: tripadvisor.in

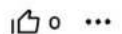
Thiruchendur Murugan Temple

Comments by Visitors



Chockalingam S

Chennai (Madras), India • 7 contributions



Glorious

Jul 2024 • Couples

This is one of six Arupadai Veedu temples dedicated to Lord Muruga. A Very beautiful temple on the sea shore. Before going for worshipping Lora Senthil Aandavar, the tradition is first to take a bath in the sea in front of the temple. this is a very nice experience. the depth is not much, but the waves at times very powerful. Please note, there is no Life Guards. After taking bath in the sea, you have to go to the Naali Kinaru, near the shore. Steps will lead you down to the nature's wonder. There you can see a small stone carving with about one foot deep hole. You can see clean soft water in it. This water is like drinking water. You get this good water very near to the sea, plus the hole gets filled up immediately after taking a bucket full of water. At the same time it is not overflowing at any time.

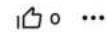
[Read less](#) ^

Written 25 September 2024



Ayyappan Kutty

Thiruvananthapuram (Trivandrum), India • 78 contributions



Great Dharsan

Oct 2022 • Family

We got the best of the Dharsan and inside the temple has a very holistic feel.

First of all, they should not charge and make money out of Dharsan. If at all they make money, the same is to be invested back in crowd management, hygiene and sanitation aspects and bringing in regulations in keeping the place with at-most cleanliness.

Every one around there is available at the entrance to public area outside to make money and none of them carry a badge or some kind of identity which is making many irrelevant people around steeling and making money. Govt. of Tamilnadu should take corrective steps in the upkeep of the place. It simply stinks all around.

If they have more cows, they should formulate a gowsalsa and take very good care of animals. They can then allow pilgrimage to visit where you can collect money over tickets.

No of street stalls are to be regulated. The quality of food served by each of the vendors are to be checked for hygiene, FSSAI standards and the source in which these food are made.

We have temples which are so holistic and historic in nature but they are to be protected carefully and thoughtfully by this generation for the next generation to follow.

Hope the govt. takes these points positively. Because it hurts when you see all such around.

[Read less](#) ^

Written 17 October 2022



Deepak_01

Bengaluru, India • 7,618 contributions



Powerful Lord Muruga temple but poor amenities.

Sept 2024 • Friends

A very old and powerful Lord Muruga temple right on the sea shore. Old intricate architecture and carvings with renovation in progress. The special entry tickets of ₹100/- takes around 1 1/2 hours on a regular day with no one to regulate nor guide. Men have to enter the temple without upper garments. Cameras / mobiles are prohibited inside the temple. There is an old tradition of having a bath in the sea, followed by the temple bathing and then entering the temple. The inside of the temple gets too humid, hot and stuffy with suffocation.

The darshan of the main deity is rushed through. But definitely Lord Muruga is divine and powerful with a serene calmness post the darshan. Huge crowd for temple food too. There is no temple prasadam available except for the food. The paths outside are uneven and littered with stones. Beach and also surroundings is too dirty and littered with trash.

[Read less](#) ^



Written 17 September 2024



Sasikala
1 contribution

👍 1 ...



Worst experience

Aug 2022 • Family

I went to this temple with 2 kids (5 and 7 years old) . I was standing in queue from morning 4.30 am . But it didnt move to main entrance till 9.30. My kid becomes sick and went out to taking care of my kid. I went 15th aug ,public holiday. Its very crowded. Temple administration should organise devotees properly who come along with kids or elders. Individual poojaris who took money from devotees and let them enter first into temple. I am totally exhausted because this. After long travel of 6 to 7 hours , more than 5 hours in queue, unable to see god. Very bad experience. Better i can suggest avoid taking kids and elders to this temple, try to give money to poojaris and see god .

Written 19 August 2022



Karpagavalli
Chennai (Madras), India • 477 contributions

👍 0 ...



Thirusenthilandavar

Mar 2022 • Family

The temple is dedicated to lord murugan worshipped as senthilandavar. This temple is the second padaviveedu- armony house- among the six padaiveedus of lord Morgan in tamilnadu. This is the place where lord Morgan won the asuran surapadhma in a fight. This is the only place where lord's temple is located near the seashore among the six padaiveedu while all other five were hilltop. The temple is open from 5am to 9pm. Here 9 times pujais are conducted every day at regular intervals with various prasadam offered. This is the place where murugan married devayani.

Written 9 May 2022



Gurudev R
Bengaluru, India • 273 contributions

👍 0 ...



Magnificent Murugan temple in Thiruchendur

Mar 2022 • Couples

One of the top rated Murugan temple, only one on a sea shore in a sprawling complex. Visited the magnificent and majestic temple of Lord Murugan last week and to be honest, very much disappointed with the way temple is run. Lot of scope for improving cleanliness, queue management and arranging all sign boards in English too. Several improvements are very much required in this ISO certified temple.

Written 13 March 2022



Kumaran Vedagiri

Chennai (Madras), India • 24 contributions

👍 0 ...



Beautiful Temple looking over the sea

Jan 2020

This was my first visit to this beautiful temple. We were blessed with nice weather and good darshan. It was crowded due to Pongal holidays but manageable as it was pretty well organized to handle the crowd.

Some information for the visitors,

1. Please do not take the Thoothukudi route. 30+ kms from Thootukudi is a minefield for sedans. The route via Tirunelveli was patchy but better than Thoothukudi. Lots of curves and scenery.
2. Weekends are always crowded so try to go as early as possible
3. You have to remove your shirt and enter the temple
4. No shortage of hotels around the temple and most are in the walkable distance.
5. Like Tirupathi, the darshan is only for a few seconds so please don't take any shortcuts.
6. Have sufficient parking space. Mostly, you can leave the car in the hotel and walk to the temple.

[Read less](#) ^



Written 20 January 2020



Krishnan R

Panjim, India • 179 contributions

👍 1 ...



Visit to Murugan temple at Tiruchendur, Tamilnadu

Dec 2019

Temple is on the sea shore. You need to first take bath in Nazhi Kinaru before taking dharshan. Signboards are available to guide you to reach this place. Paid dharshan is available. It may take 2 hrs for the dharshan. You can not do pooja at the sanctum sanctorum. Crowd is always there in this temple irrespective of festivals and days. Be prepared to spend atleast 3 hours. You need to remove shirts/banians for entering the temple to take dharshan.

Written 19 December 2019



MMAHARAJAN

Chennai (Madras), India • 120 contributions

👍 2 ...



Historical place with lots of positive vibes

Jan 2020 • Business

A powerful Lord Murugan temple with lots of positive energy. Had a great time in the temple, felt light hearted after worshipping Subramanya Swami. you will get good darshan. One of the most divine temples in South India. Awesome to see the sun rise in ocean. The beach just added beauty to temple. You can take bath & spend time in the beach. If you want to worship without any rush visit the temple on week days afternoon 3 pm.



Written 31 January 2020



RaviUnni

Chennai (Madras), India • 44 contributions

👍 0 ..



One of the 6 Murugan temples in TN

Aug 2019

This temple is one of the famous 6 Murugan temples. Unlike the other 5, its not on a hillock but with a beautiful setting in the form of Bay of Bengal, Convenient bus and train service from the nearest big town viz. Tirunelveli.

For people interested in Divya Desam (DD), there are around 10 DD along the route from Tirunelveli to Tiruchendur; locally its called 10 Tirupatis.

Written 28 October 2019



Ananth 727499

Tiruppur, India • 1,516 contributions

👍 1 ...



one of the six padai veedu of lord murugan

Mar 2019

This temple is located on the sea shore of Thiruchendur..

This temple has many important places to have your darshan.. They are

- 01.. Have a holy bath in naali kinaru
02. Take a holy dip in the sea water.
03. Have your darshan of lord murugan
04. Juat have your Darshan of the shivalingas installed ny thesages in the temple..
05. Have darshan of Lord Ranganathar and Lord Balaji
06. hear the sound of the sea waves saying "OM" in a particular place in the temple..

[Read less](#) ^



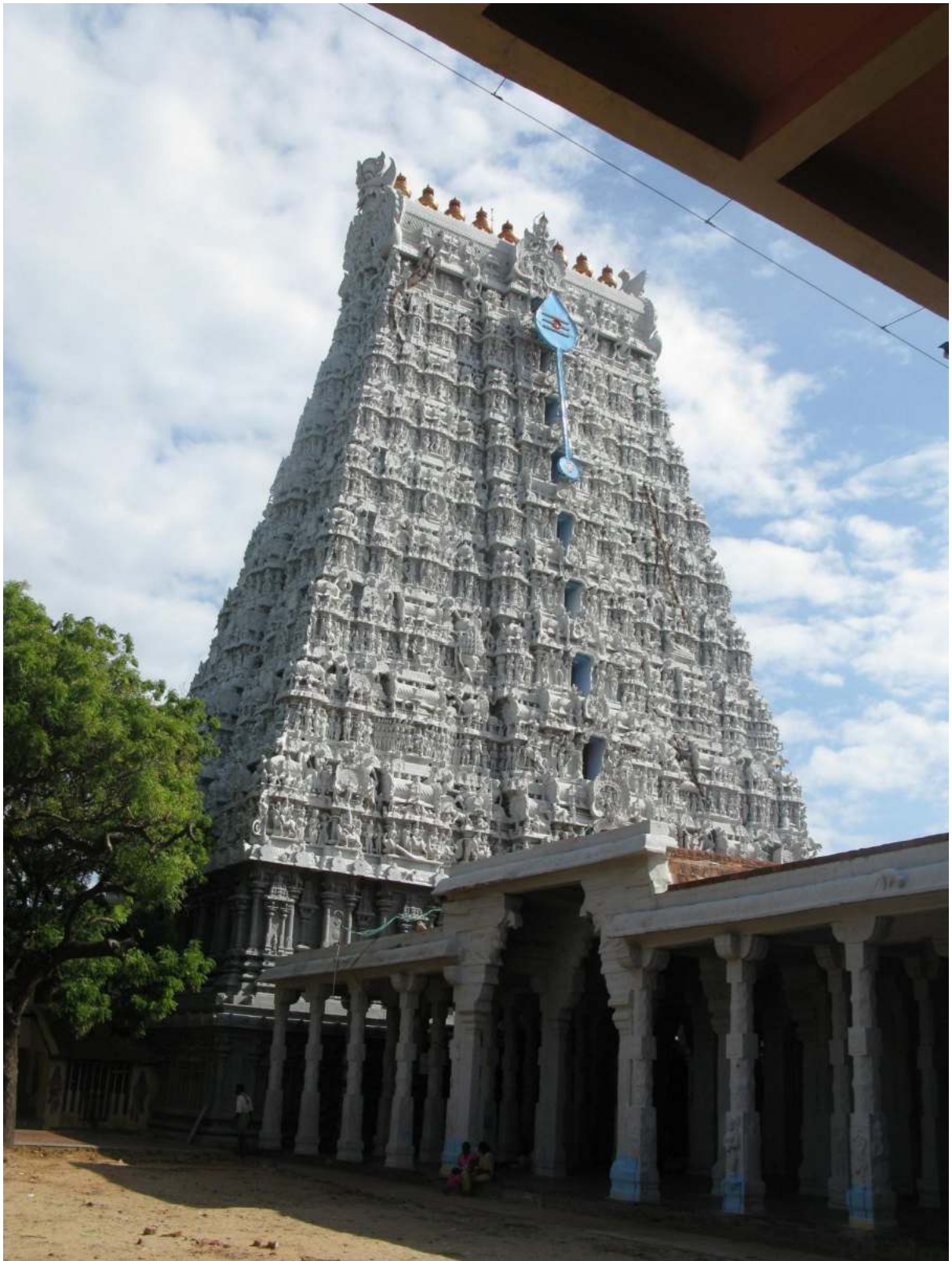
Written 8 October 2019

Photos













































YouTube Videos

Thiruchendur Murugan Temple Tour (15 min):

<https://youtu.be/jLgy6S61vAc?si=nSNNciTotecVgg7q>

Mysterious Thiruchendur Murugan Temple- Story shared by Gurudev Sri Ravishankar (3 min):

<https://youtu.be/08vF-Em3mNw?si=6ZZcuilSrr7xU3WE>

Powerful Thiruchendur Murugan Temple - unaffected by the 2004cTsunami (13 min):

<https://youtu.be/7cJTDBU7gBc?si=B5jpgG8jk08vgC3W>

Thiruchendur Temple - Kannada travel vlog (5 min):

<https://youtu.be/h95tJqEFpYg?si=UaixdVQh6K993kr->

Incredible Thiruchendur Murugan Temple (0.24 min):

<https://youtu.be/YTXVcjLAbEs?si=n32J-kbg63b-AuWF>

Thiruchendur Murugan Temple - full tour - Telugu (13 min):

<https://youtu.be/R5whONi6sEY?si=7DG6h51WzPeSaXvd>

Thiruchendur Temple History (30 min):

<https://youtu.be/skJxY9S7pUg?si=j7pb3Mc5iwmq9SIQ>

Thiruchendur Kanda Sashti festival - drone view (3 min):

<https://youtu.be/PK4SbO38lmQ?si=KT6hglKaNKKLtcQY>

Thiruchendur Temple History - Tamil - Jothi TV (39 min):

https://youtu.be/_HE0BFo79B0?si=jthEAzmnBrNJihOD

Kanda sasti festival - November 4, 2024 - Sun News (0.53 min):

<https://youtu.be/WLLVYH81wLQ?si=C2CTzLPaE0njlCvV>

Kanda sasti festival - Nov.6, 2024 - Sun News (3 min):

https://youtu.be/zLc4dy9Qlik?si=UQ9az8OXX_wRZ7t9

Thiruchendur Murugan Temple- Puthiyathalai TV (1 min):

<https://youtu.be/VNPd5Jqcpvc?si=KHWx5jw8rAx9NkYx>

Thiruchendur Murugan Temple Tour (11 min):

https://youtu.be/fRuP4ur_Tdw?si=Xo6FI2dtgF8l-4YX

Thiruchendur Murugan Temple - Puthiyathalai TV , Nov. 7, 2024 (2 min):

https://youtu.be/i18RcatmDqQ?si=sv7alx4k_p9EbVXg



ॐ स॒ह ना॑ ववतु । स॒ह नौ॑ भुनक्तु । स॒ह वी॒र्यं॑ करवावहै । ते॒ज॒स्विना॒वधी॑तमस्तु मा वि॒द्विषा॑वहै ॥ (3)

ॐ शान्तिः॒ शान्तिः॒ शान्तिः॑ ॥ (3)

Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar

**Sri Dandayuthapani Swamy Temple, Palani,
Dindigul Dist., Tamil Nadu, India**



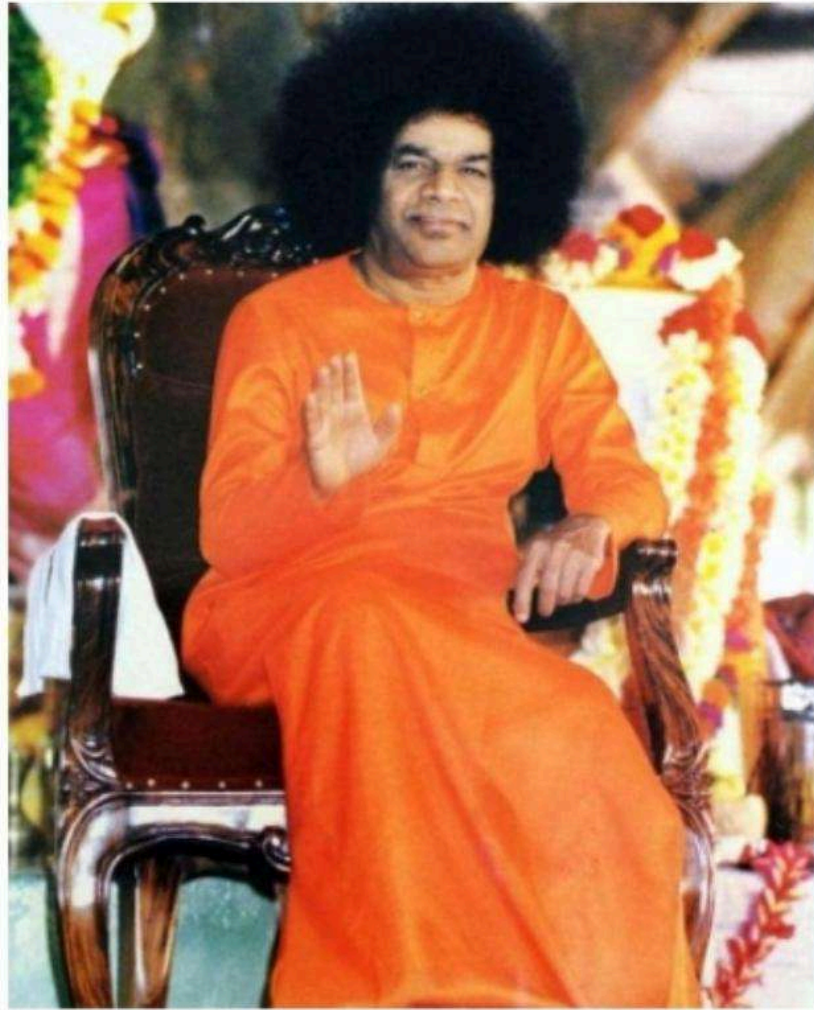
**Compiled by
Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar**

formerly:

- (i) Professor, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering,
St. Joseph Engineering College,
Vamanjoor, Mangalore – 575 028, India
- (ii) Principal, Vivekananda College of Engineering and Technology,
Puttur (D.K.) – 574 203, India
- (iii) Head, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering,
Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues Institute of Technology,
Vashi, Navi Mumbai 400 703, India
- (iv) Senior Scientific Officer and Head,
Cryogenics Section,
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay, Mumbai, India
and
Centre for Advanced Technology, Indore 452013, India

DEDICATION

**This work is lovingly dedicated at the lotus feet of:
Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba**



**There is only ONE caste -The Caste of Humanity
There is only ONE religion –The Religion of Love
There is only ONE language –The Language of the Heart
There is only ONE God –He is Omnipresent**

.....Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba

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PREFACE



This free ebook gives briefly info about: “**Sri Dandayuthapani Swamy Temple, Palani**”

This temple is a [Hindu temple](#) dedicated to [Murugan](#) situated atop a hillock amidst the [Palani Hills](#) in [Palani](#), [Dindigul district](#) of [Tamil Nadu](#). It is one of the [Six Abodes of Murugan](#).

The idol of Murugan in the [garbagriha](#) is believed to have been consecrated by sage [Bogar](#), one of the [Siddhars](#), out of an amalgam of nine herbs known as *Navapashanam*. The temple was built between 2nd and 5th century CE by the [Cheras](#) and was expanded multiple times over the years by various kingdoms.

Details of Temple History, legends, festivals, deities, Timings, address, map, phone number and how to reach there, temple speciality, architecture, facilities for and tips for visitors, accommodation and hotels nearby, darshan and Pooja Timings, details of poojas and their cost, contact info, donation info, Bhogar shrine, comments by visitors,..etc are given.

Many good photos of the temple and related activities like festivals etc are given.

Links to YouTube Videos give videos relating to the temple, its legend and history, festivals, Thaipusam, Temple travel vlogs, travel guides, temple tour, Palani Winch train...etc

Acknowledgements:

Many of my friends and relatives have actively encouraged me in my attempt to compile this free ebook. I sincerely thank them for their support.

My wife Kala has always encouraged and supported me in all my literary works, sacrificing much of her time. I express my deep appreciation to her.

I have drawn from many references, and YouTube as mentioned in the text.

Finally, I express my immense gratitude to Sri Sathya Sai Baba for His Grace and blessings, prompting me to initiate, continue and complete this work.

Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar,
January 7, 2025
Email: tmuliya@rediffmail.com

Ref: Wikipedia

Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple



Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple is a [Hindu temple](#) dedicated to [Murugan](#) situated atop a hillock amidst the [Palani Hills](#) in [Palani](#), [Dindigul district](#) of [Tamil Nadu](#). It is one of the [Six Abodes of Murugan](#). The temple is managed by the [Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department](#) of the [Government of Tamil Nadu](#).

It is mentioned as *Thiruaavinankudi* in the [Sangam literature](#) [Tirumurukārruppatai](#). As per [Hindu mythology](#), the hillock was carried by [Idumban](#) from [Kailasha](#) on the orders of sage [Agastya](#) and was made to place it at the current location at Palani by Murugan. Later when sage [Narada](#) visited [Shiva](#) at Kailasha and presented him with [gnana-palam](#) (fruit of knowledge), Shiva decided to award it to whichever of his two sons finishes encircling the world thrice. Accepting the challenge, Murugan started his journey around the globe on his peacock [mount](#) but his brother [Ganesha](#) surmised that the world was no more than his parents Shiva and [Shakti](#) combined, circumambulated them and won the fruit. Knowing this, Murugan was furious as he felt cheated and chose to live a life as a hermit in Palani hills.

The idol of Murugan in the [garbagriha](#) is believed to have been consecrated by sage [Bogar](#), one of the [Siddhars](#), out of an amalgam of nine herbs known as *Navapashanam*. The temple was built between 2nd and 5th century CE by the [Cheras](#) and was expanded multiple times

over the years by various kingdoms.

The temple complex atop the hillock can be accessed by foot by climbing the stairs or walking along a sliding way. Pilgrims can also reach the top via a [winch](#) operated railway or a [rope car](#). [Tonsuring](#) is one of major traditions of the temple. All Murugan festivals are celebrated in the temple with special [pujas](#) and rituals. Pilgrims may carry a [kavadi](#), a physical burden, as a form of [debt bondage](#). The temple is synonymous with [Panchamritam](#), a sweet mixture made of five ingredients, offered as a [prasadam](#), which is a listed [Geographical Indication](#).

Mythology

Once all sages and gods assembled in [Kailasha](#), the abode of [Shiva](#), which resulted in the tilting of [earth](#) due to an increase in weight on one [hemisphere](#). Shiva asked sage [Agasthya](#) to move towards the south to restore the balance. Agastya employed a [asura](#) named [Idumban](#) to carry two hills named as *Sivagiri* and *Sakthigiri* (Mountains of Shiva and [Shakti](#)) on his shoulders to be placed in the South, to balance the weight. Idumban carried the hills down south and en-route he placed them down for a while, when he rested. When he tried to lift them back, he was unable to move one of the hills. He found a youth standing atop of the hill and fought with him, only to be defeated. Agasthya identified the youth as [Murugan](#) and on reasoning out, the hill was let to remain at the location, which later became [Palani](#). The mythology behind Idumban carrying the hills on the shoulder might have led to the practice of [Kavadi](#).^[4]

Sage [Narada](#) once visited Shiva at Kailasha and presented him with a [gnana-palam](#) (fruit of knowledge). Shiva expressed his intention of dividing the fruit between his two sons, [Ganesha](#) and Murugan, but Narada counseled that the fruit cannot be divided. So, it was decided to award the fruit to whoever first circled the world thrice. Accepting the challenge, Murugan started his journey around the globe on atop his peacock [mount](#). However, Ganesha surmised that the world was no more than his parents Shiva and Shakti combined, circumambulated them and won the fruit. When Murugan returned, he was furious to learn that his efforts had been in vain and felt cheated. He left Kailasha to take up abode in the [Palani Hills](#) as a hermit. It is believed that Murugan felt the need to mature from boyhood, hence discarded all his material belongings and went to Palani.

History

The location is mentioned as *Thiruaavinankudi* in the [Sangam literature](#) [Tirumurukāruppatai](#). As per [Purananuru](#), the region was known as Vaikavarnadu and was part of [Vaiyapuri Nadu](#), ruled by king [Kōpperum Pēkan](#). The place is mentioned by poets such as [Kabilar](#), [Vanparanar](#), Aricilkiḷār, and Perunkunrurkiḷār. Sangam literature [Akananuru](#) mentions the name of the place as *Pothini*, ruled by [Velir](#) chieftain Vel chieftain Neduvel Avi. The name Pothini was derived from [Tamil language](#) phrase "Pon-udai-nedu-nagar" meaning the big town with [gold](#), which later became Palani.^[3] As per [Patiruppattu](#), chieftain Velavikkopaduman had matrimonial relations with the [Cheras](#), who ruled the region from the late first century CE. Poet [Ilangiranar](#) mentions the Chera king [Mantaram Cheral Irumporai](#), who ruled the region during the period.

The main idol of Murugan in the [garbagriha](#) is believed to have been created and consecrated by sage [Bogar](#), one of the [Siddhars](#). The statue is believed to have been made of an [amalgam](#) of nine rocks or herbs known as *navapashanam*. According to temple legend, the sculptor had to work rapidly to complete its features. A shrine to Bhogar exists in the southwestern corridor of the temple, which, by temple legend, is said to be connected by a tunnel to a cave in the heart of the hill, where Bhogar continues to meditate and maintain his vigil.^[5]

The idol fell into neglect and the area was engulfed by the forest. One night, a king of the [Chera Dynasty](#), who controlled the region between the second and fifth centuries CE, took refuge at the foot of the hills. As per temple legend, Murugan appeared in his dream, and ordered him to find and restore the idol to its former state. The king commenced a search for the idol, and finding it, constructed a temple on the hillock and re-instituted its worship. There are figures of a king, believed to be the Chera king, on the southern walls of the temple and a small [stela](#) at the foot of the staircase that winds up the hill, describing the events.

In the [middle age](#), the area came under the control of [Cholas](#) in the 10th century CE. The Cholas expanded the temple and inscriptions mention various grants made by the Chola kings. Later, the region was ruled over by the [Pandyas](#), who further expanded the temple complex.^[7] Inscriptions found on the temple walls mention grants by Pandya kings such as [Jatavarman Sundara Pandyan I](#) and [Jatavarman Vira Pandyan II](#) during the 13th century CE.^[8] In the year 1300 CE, [Maravarman Kulasekara Pandyan I](#) is documented to have gifted a village as a grant to the temple. The [Vijayanagar Empire](#) patronized the temple and the region between the 14th and 16th centuries. After the collapse of Vijayanagara, the [Madurai Nayaks](#) ruled the region.^[9] [Arunagirinathar](#) was a 15th-century Tamil poet born in [Tiruvannamalai](#), who later became a devotee of Murugan and visited Palani. He composed various Tamil hymns glorifying Murugan at the temple, the most notable being part of [Thirupugazh](#).^[10] He became a staunch devotee and composed .^{[11][12][13]} Palani temple is one of the [Six Abodes of Murugan](#) and considered one of the most prominent abodes of Muruga.^[14]

Under the Nayaks, [Palayakkarar](#) system was formulated with the temple being administered by the Palayakkarars of [Balasamudram](#).^[15] The region and the temple was under the influence of [Mysore kingdom](#) in the 18th century before being part of the [Madras Presidency](#) of [British Raj](#) towards the end of the century. After [Indian Independence](#) in 1947, the temple became part of [Madras State](#) which later became [Tamil Nadu](#).

Layout and Architecture

The temple is situated upon the higher of the two hills of Palani, known as the Sivagiri. The sanctum of the temple is of early [Dravidian architecture](#) while the covered ambulatory that runs around it bears traces of Pandyan influence. The walls of the temple bear extensive inscriptions in old [Tamil script](#). Surmounting the sanctum, is a [vimanam](#) plated with [gold](#), with sculptures of Hindu gods and goddesses carved on it. In the first inner prahāram or ambulatory around the heart of the temple, are two minor shrines, one each, to Shiva and Parvati. There is a shrine dedicated to sage Bhogar, who is by credited with the creation and consecration of the chief idol. In the second precinct, is a shrine dedicated to [Ganapati](#), besides the carriage-houses for the [chariots](#).

Deity

The idol of the deity is said to be made of an amalgam of nine poisonous substances which forms an eternal medicine when mixed in a certain ratio. The idol represents the god Murugan as *Dhandapani*, a form he assumed while at Palani, being that of a young recluse, shorn of his hair, dressed in a loincloth and armed only with a staff (*dhandam*) as a monk.^[6] It is placed upon a pedestal of stone, with an archway framing it in the garbhagriha or the [sanctum sanctorum](#) of the temple. The deity is approached only by the temple's priests,

members of the [Brahmin](#) community, who hold hereditary rights of sacerdotal worship at the temple. Devotees are permitted to come up to the entrance of the sanctum, while the priests' assistants (Pandārams) are allowed up to the ante-chamber of the sanctum sanctorum.^[5]

The original idol was believed to have been wearing away or dissolving, by virtue of its repeated anointment and ritual bathing but priests of the temple maintain that they perceive no visible change. As [Hinduism](#) forbids the worship of an imperfect idol, suggestions have been made, at various points of time, to replace it, cover it, or stop some of the rituals, which could have resulted in its erosion. Attempts were made to replace the idol in 1984 and later in 2002.^[18] In 2003, the temple officials decided to make a replacement idol weighing 200 kg (440 lb) made up of an [alloy](#) of five metals including 10 kg (22 lb) of gold. The idol which was consecrated in January 2004, was quickly removed, following opposition from various quarters.^[19] In 2019, based on an investigation, [Tamil Nadu Police](#) announced that the new idol was made with a ploy of smuggling the old idol. Based on research from [IIT Madras](#), it was found that the replacement idol actually weighed 221 kg (487 lb) and did not contain the required amounts of the metals specified, particularly gold.

Practices and rituals

The most common form of ritual at the temple is the [abhishekam](#)—anointment of the idol with oils, [sandalwood](#) paste, [milk](#), unguents and the like and then bathing it with water in an act of ritual purification. Four prominent abhishekams and pujas are conducted at specific times of the day and include the *Vizha Pujai* in the early morning after opening the temple, *Uchchikāla Pujai* in the afternoon, *Sāyarakshai Pujai* in the evening and *Rakkāla Pujai* at night prior to the closure of the temple. The pujas are accompanied by traditional musical instruments and tolling of the heavy bell on the hill, to rouse the attention of devotees. The idol is decorated with an attire of a king in the evenings, known as *Raja alankaram*.^[24]

Traditionally, the temple was supposed to be closed in the afternoon to permit the deity, who is a child, to have adequate sleep. Every night at the *Palli-Arai* or bedroom, the lord is informed of the status of the temple's accounts for the day, by the custodians of the temple, and then put to sleep by singing of an *ōdhuvār* ([lullaby](#)). An idol of the lord, called the *Uthsavamoorthy*, is carried in state around the temple, in a [golden chariot](#), drawn by devotees, most evenings in a year.^[25] This chariot is made using 63 kg (139 lb) of silver and plated with 4.73 kg (10.4 lb) of gold and other precious stones.^[26]

[Panchamritam](#) (mixture of five) is a divine mix made of [banana](#), [honey](#), [ghee](#), [jaggery](#) and [cardamom](#) along with [date fruits](#) and [Sugar candies](#). It is believed to have been prepared by Ganesha to soothe Muruga, after their battle for the fruit. The practice is followed in modern times where the devotees are provided the mixture as a prasada.^{[11][27]} It is recognized as a [Geographical Indication](#) in India.

Worship

The temple at the foothills known as *Thiruavinankudi Kulandhai Velappar Temple* is considered as one of the [Six Abodes of Murugan](#). It is located next to *Sarvana Poigai*, a sacred [tank](#), which is believed to have been the birthplace of Murugan.^{[29][30]} Devotees usually visit the temple before going atop the hill.^[31]

Tonsuring is one of the major traditions of the temple, with devotees performing the ritual to fulfill a vow to discard their hair in imitation of the form that Murugan assumed here.^[32] After tonsuring, sandalwood paste is applied to imitate the ritual of anointing of the head of the presiding deity's idol with sandalwood paste, at night, prior to the temple being closed for the day. The paste, upon being allowed to stay overnight, is said to acquire special properties, and is distributed to devotees, as prasadam (*rakkāla chandaṇam*).^[33] New borns may undergo a ritual of tonsuring and ear piercing at the temple.^[34]

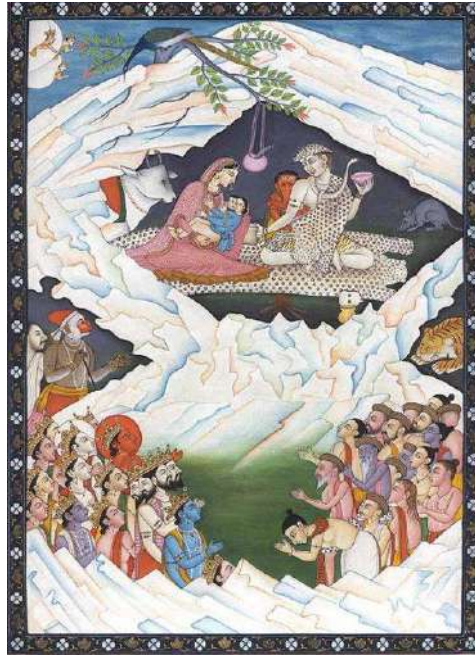
Festivals dedicated to Murugan are celebrated with pomp. These include Thaipusam, Panguni Uthiram, Vaikhashi Vishakham and Sura Samhaaram. Thaipusam is the most important festival at Palani, and is celebrated on the full moon day of the Tamil Month of Thai.^[35] Devotees carry a kavadi, a burden or mount as a form of debt bondage. In the simplest form, it consists of two semicircular pieces of wood or steel which are bent and attached to a cross structure, that is balanced on the shoulders of the devotee.^[36] It may be decorated with flowers, glazed paper and tinsel work.^[37] It is often carried in commemoration of the act of Idumban who brought the hillock from Kailasha. Others bring pots of sanctified water, known as *theertha kavadi* or cow milk known as *paal kavadi* to conduct abhishekam. Pilgrims often take a strict vow of abstinence for 48 days, come barefoot, by walking, from distant places, bathe in the temple tank and go atop the hill.

Access

The temple is situated in the town of Palani, which is accessible by road and rail. It is connected to Coimbatore via National Highway 83. Palani railway station falls on the Dindigul-Pollachi railway line.^[40]

Traditionally, the temple was accessed by climbing the hillock on foot. Later, staircases were cut into the hill-side for the usage of pilgrims and a gently sloping pathway was added for usage by temple elephants. Additional stairways were added later, which are used by priests to access the temple. In the late 20th century, three funicular railway tracks were laid up the hill to ferry the pilgrims.^[41] In 2003, a rope way was added with a capacity to handle 250 people per hour. **The rope way was upgraded in 2018, to increase the hourly capacity to 1500.**^[42] **The temple is one of the most visited in the state.**

Photos



[Shiva](#) with his family at [Kailasha](#)



Main Temple complex



Tamil Inscriptions at the Temple



Thiruavinangudi Temple Pillar Sculpture, Amman



Thiruvavinangudi Temple Pillar Sculpture, Parrot in a tree



Golden [vimanam](#)



Kulandai Velayudhaswami Temple in the foothills



Hill temple dedicated to Lord Muruga



Palani Hill Rope Car1

Ref: dindigul.nic.in

Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple, Palani

Palani Arulmigu Shri Dhandayuthapani temple is one of the Six Abodes of Murugan. It is located in the town of Palani in Dindigul district, 100 kilometres (62 mi) southeast of Coimbatore and northwest of Madurai in the foot-hills of the Palani hills, Tamil Nadu, India.

Legend

Sage Narada once visited the celestial court of Shiva at Mount Kailash to present to him a fruit, the gyana-palam (literally, the fruit of knowledge), that held in it the elixir of wisdom. Upon Shiva expressing his intention of dividing the fruit between his two sons, Ganesha and Murugan, the sage counselled against cutting it. He decided to award it to whichever of his two sons first circled the world thrice. Accepting the challenge, Karthikeya started his journey around the globe on his mount peacock. However, Ganesha, who surmised that the world was no more than his parents Shiva and Shakti combined, circumambulated them. Pleased with their son's discernment, Shiva awarded the fruit to Ganesha. When Kartikeya returned,

he was furious to learn that his efforts had been in vain. He left Kailash and took up his abode in Palani hills in South India.

As per another legend, once all sages and gods assembled in Kailash, the abode of Shiva. It resulted in the tilting of earth towards one direction. Shiva asked sage Agathiyar to move towards South to balance the tilt. Agastya employed a demon by name Ettumba to carry two hills on his shoulders to be placed in the South. The demon carried the hills down south and rested in a place. When he tried to lift one of the hills, it didn't budge and he found a young man standing at the top of the hill not allowing it to be moved. The demon tried to attack the young man, but was defeated. Sage Agastya identified the young man as Karthikeya and asked him to pardon the demon. Karthikeya readily did so and let the hill remain there at Pazhani. It is a practice followed in the modern times where people carry milk in both their shoulders as a devotion to please Karthikeya. The demon carried the other hill to Swamimalai, which is another abode of Karthikeya.

History

The idol of the Muruga in Palani, was created and consecrated by sage Bogar, one of aaseevaham (Ancient Tamil Culture) eighteen great siddhas out of an amalgam of nine poisons or navapashanam. The legend also holds that, the sculptor had to work very rapidly to complete its features, but that he spent so much time in creating the face, he did not have time to bestow but a rough grace upon the rest of the body, thus explaining the contrast between the artistic perfection of the face and the slightly less accomplished work upon the body. A shrine to Bhogar exists in the southwestern corridor of the temple, which, by legend, is said to be connected by a subterranean tunnel to a cave in the heart of the hill, where Bhogar continues to meditate and maintain his vigil, with eight idols of Muruga.

The deity, after centuries of worship, fell into neglect and suffered to be engulfed by the forest. One night, Perumal, a king of the Chera Dynasty, who controlled the area between the second and fifth centuries A.D., wandered from his hunting party and was forced to take refuge at the foot of the hill. It so befell, that the Subrahmanyan appeared to him in a dream, and ordered him to restore the idol to its former state. The king commenced a search for the idol, and finding it, constructed the temple that now houses it, and re-instituted its worship. This is commemorated by a small stela at the foot of the staircase that winds up the hill.

Architecture

Pazhani Temple Elephant

The idol of the deity is said to be made of an amalgam of nine poisonous substances which forms an eternal medicine when mixed in a certain ratio. It is placed upon a pedestal of stone, with an archway framing it and represents the god Subrahmanya in the form He assumed at Palani – that of a very young recluse, shorn of his locks and all his finery, dressed in no more than a loincloth and armed only with a staff, the dhandam, as befits a monk.

The temple was re-consecrated by the Cheras, whose dominions lay to the west, and the guardian of whose eastern frontier was supposed to be the Kartikeya of Palani. Housed in

the garbhagriha, the sanctum sanctorum, of the temple, the deity may be approached and handled only by the temple's priests, who are members of the Gurukkal community of Palani, and hold hereditary rights of sacerdotal worship at the temple. Other devotees are permitted to come up to the sanctum, while the priests' assistants, normally of the Pandāram community, are allowed up to the ante-chamber of the sanctum sanctorum.

The temple is situated upon the higher of the two hills of Palani, known as the Sivagiri. Traditionally, access to it was by the main staircase cut into the hill-side or by the yanai-padhai or elephant's path, used by the ceremonial elephants. Pilgrims bearing water for the ritual bathing of the idol, and the priests, would use another way also carved into the hill-side but on the opposite side. Over the past half-century, three funicular railway tracks have been laid up the hill for the convenience of the pilgrims, and supplemented by a rope-way within the past decade. There are two modes of transport from the foothills to uphill. There is a winch, which operates from 6 a.m. on ordinary days and 4 a.m. during festive occasions. There is another rope car which operates from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Both winch and the rope car are closed after the Irakkala Pooja at 8 p.m.

Religious practices

One of the main traditions of the temple is the tonsuring of devotees, who vow to discard their hair in imitation of the Lord of Palani. Another is the anointing of the head of the presiding deity's idol with sandalwood paste, at night, prior to the temple being closed for the day. The paste, upon being allowed to stay overnight, is said to acquire medicinal properties, and is much sought after and distributed to devotees, as rakkāla chandaṇam.

Traditionally, the hill-temple of Palani is supposed to be closed in the afternoon and rather early in the evening to permit the deity to have adequate sleep, being but a child, and therefore, easily tired by the throngs of devotees and their constant importunations. A tradition that is not very well known is that of the Paḷḷi-Arai or bedroom, wherein, each night, the Lord is informed of the status of the temple's accounts for the day, by the custodians of the temple, and then put to sleep to the singing of an ōdhuvār or bard.

Devotees carry kavadi, an ornamental mount decked with flowers, glazed paper and tinsel work and wearing ochre clothes themselves on foot from long distances is a commonly followed worship practice.

Panchamirtham (mixture of five) is believed to be a divine mix prepared by Vinayagar at the end of the divine encounter. He mixed honey, dates, banana, raisins and jaggery and distributed it to Shiva Karthikeya. The practice is followed in modern times where the devotees are provided Panchamirtham as a Prasad.

Festivals and religious practices

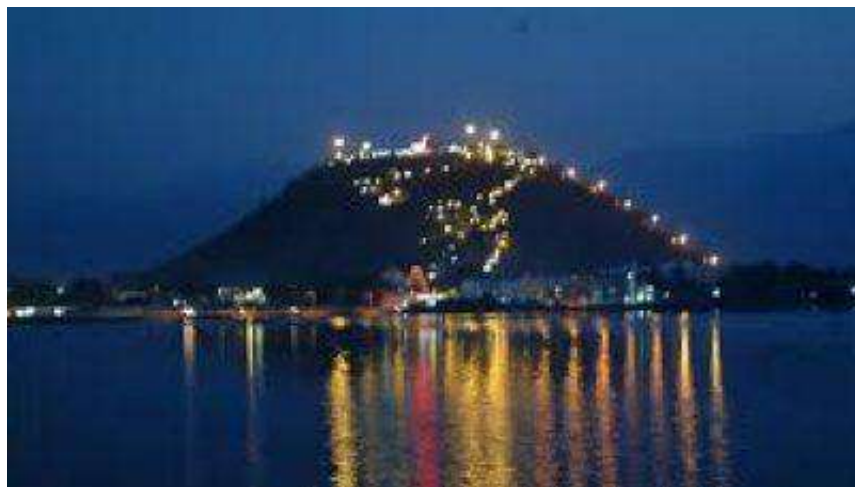
Besides regular services, days sacred to the god Subrahmanyan are celebrated with pomp and splendour every year, and are attended by throngs of devotees from all over South India. Some of these festivals are the Thai-Poosam, the Panguni-Uthiram, the Vaikhashi-Vishakham and the Soora-Samharam. Thai-Poosam, which is considered, by far, the most important festival at Palani, is celebrated on the full moon day of the Tamil Month of Thai (15 January-15 February). Pilgrims, after first having taken a strict vow of abstinence, come barefoot, by walk, from distant towns and villages. Many pilgrims also bring a litter of

wood, called a Kāvadi, borne on their shoulders, in commemoration of the act of the demon Hidumba who is credited by legend with bringing the two hills of Palani to their present location, slung upon his shoulders in a similar fashion. Others bring pots of sanctified water, known as theertha-kāvadi, for the priests to conduct the abhishekam on the holy day. Traditionally, the most honoured of the pilgrims, whose arrival is awaited with anticipation by all and sundry, are the people of Karaikudi, who bring with them the diamond-encrusted vél or javelin, of the Lord from His temple at Karaikudi.

The temple is open from 6.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. On festival days the temple opens at 4.30 a.m. There are six poojas performed in the temple, namely, the Vilaa pooja at 6.30 a.m., Siru Kall pooja at 8.00 a.m., Kaala Santhi at 9.00 a.m., Utchikkala Pooja at 12.00 noon, Raja Alankaram at 5.30 p.m., Iraakkaala pooja at 8.00 p.m. The Golden Car can be viewed at 6.30 p.m.

For more details : <http://www.palanimurugantemple.tnhrce.in/index.html>

Photo Gallery





Ref: behindeverytemple.org

Palani Murugan, the Sacred Gem of Dindigul

Located in the foothills of Palani at the heart of Dindigul stands the millennia-old temple of The Palani Murugan. Also known as the Arulmigu Dandayudhapani Swami Temple, this abode has been drawing millions of devotees every year for centuries. It will continue to do so for many more to come, for the universal attraction it has become to the pilgrims all over the world.



The legend

As per the Hindu mythology, Lord Shiva was presented the Fruit of Knowledge by Sage Narada which held the elixir of knowledge within. Lord Shiva wanted to divide the fruit equally among his two sons, Ganesha and Murugan but was highly counselled by the sage against cutting it. To overcome the dilemma, he decided that the first one to circle the world thrice shall be rewarded with the fruit. Quick to accept, Lord Murugan embarked on his journey mounted on his peacock. The more thoughtful of the two Ganesha, began to circumambulate his parents Lord Shiva and Goddess Shakti, conjecturing the world to be no more than them. Delighted and impressed by their son's devotion, Lord Shiva awarded the fruit to him. Murugan felt the urgency to mature and gather wisdom. In his quest to know more about himself, he went into meditation atop the hills of Palani.

An Odyssey against time

There is no evidence of how this temple came into existence. Tamil Scriptures suggest that the idol of Lord Murugan was laid by the Sage Bogar who crafted the idol millennia ago for which the timeline has not been specified, using an amalgam of nine poisonous substances which when mixed in a specific ratio formed an eternal medicine. Consecutive robberies and neglect left the idol fragmented. The temple, later on, was built on the orders of a perumal king of the Chola Dynasty somewhere in between the second and fifth AD. It has proven to withstand the might of blades and the sands of time for centuries while the Chera, Chola and the Pandya dynasties faded.



An imperishable Architecture

From the Chera laid shrine at the centre of the temple to ambulatory that goes around still the traces of Pandya architecture, with the visible two fishes that symbolized the Pandya insignia. Tamil scripture could be seen inscribed all over the walls of the sanctum. At The top the sanctum stands a colossal pyramid of gold marking the boundaries of the temple which in Southern India is popularly known as a Gopuram. It houses plenty of sculptures of Lord Kartikeya, and gods and goddesses that attend upon him. In the first inner ambulatory, a way around the heart of the temple, lie the shrines of Shiva and Parvati. Besides them, there is the shrine of the Sage Bhogar. As the legend says, the sage who crafted the chief idol. Beyond the precinct is the worshipped shrine of Ganpati and the golden chariot of Lord Murugan.

The Mystics of the Temple

There is no evidence of how this temple came into existence. Tamil Scriptures suggest that the idol of Lord Murugan was laid by the Sage Bogar who crafted the idol millennia ago for which the timeline has not been specified, using an amalgam of nine poisonous substances which when mixed in a specific ratio formed an eternal medicine. Consecutive robberies and neglect left the idol fragmented. The temple, later on, was built on the orders of a perumal king of the Chola Dynasty somewhere in between the second and fifth AD. It has proven to

withstand the might of blades and the sands of time for centuries while the Chera, Chola and the Pandya dynasties faded.

SWAMI SIVANANDA

Swami Siva a prodigy, and the most recent of the swamis is a well-known mystic to his disciples and devotees of Lord Murugan. Predicted by the sadhu swamis to leave home at an early age, he began to follow the path to become a Siddha himself.

As days began to roll by, his advancing age and his continuous practice to know himself through his devotion to Lord Murugan, the boy matured to become a full sanyasi and a big batton. He spent his life spreading his wisdom using his knowledge to benefit others and following his commitment to his supreme idol.

Years went by and the time came for Sadhu Swamy to dissolve himself for eloping with god. In the end, with the ever-increasing exclamation of Lord Mugun on his mouth, he passed away. In folklore, swami's name became a legend for his eternal devotion to Kartikey.

SAINT AARUMUGATHAMBIAN

The most well known of the siddhas and perhaps the most mysterious one. Saint Aarumugathambiran, who is also known as Arumuganeri, is thought to have possessed mystical powers according to south-Indian folklore. At his time many of Muruga's devotees had to cross through Nalkasi near Ottenchattiram, a river which is followed by a forest to reach Palani temple. Ninkasi was one of the many rivers which led to Palani. There was an instance when the devotees had to cross the river at a particular time of the year when water flooded through the banks of the river. Devotees from villages waited for Arumuganar hoping him to make their way through the river. The water level of the river receded, and devotees with Kavadis' (religious offerings) followed as Aarumuganar sprinkled the sacred ash upon the river and his pirambu (stick) kissed the surface opening the gateway for them to cross. Even now the temple authorities at Palani, the temple would wait for the arrival of Arumuganar's hoping him to do the ucchi kaala poojai at 12 pm. Such had become the fame of Arumuganar and his kavadi.

He is also known to have once made fishes in a fish curry jump out alive.

The Scientific analysis

For centuries, granite stones have been primarily used to sculpt idols. It is known to have enormous strength and contain all-natural elements of creation: earth, water, fire, air and ether. In consultation with 17 other siddhars, The great sage Bogar began constructing the idol after consulting the 17 other siddhars as he devised a formula out of the "Nava Paashaanam". A unique extract which is an invaluable mixture of the medicinal properties of 4498 Rare herbs constitutes the idol. The amalgam is said to be a well-crafted mixture of nine poisonous metals. Through this, the power that these elements possessed was hardened like granite and shaped into a beneficial product with medicinal and curative values.

As the Kaliyuga set, which is about 4900 years before the current timeline, Muruga's idol was installed on top of the sacred mountain as it was worshipped for years to come. The unfortunate situation now is that the idol stands slender and could collapse at any time. Around 100 years ago, a Siddha living in Palani who was one of the trustees of this temple, supposedly scraped the material from the back of the idol and diluted it to make medicines to be sold for commercial purposes.

Many famous and well-established mineralogists could not figure out the mineralogy and composition of the idol upon investigation. Even the Perkin-Elmer 707 atomic absorption spectrophotometer failed to identify the trace elements. It was concluded that it was too difficult even for modern scientific analysis to penetrate the Divine Structure.

Dive deep into the facts

Sundaranandar Siddhar

Palani, among the most sacred religious abodes of Lord Murugan, has also long been a powerful spiritual healing centre. Its past is enriched in antiquity, legend, mythology, epic battles along with stories of great sages that honour literature even as the days went by.

The great shrine is located at 1500 feet above sea level.

For centuries its essence has been recorded by the Tamil poets, breaking the barriers of religion and creed as this Tamil literature is enjoyed by all.

According to Saiva Siddhanta, "The path to enlightenment is divided naturally into four stages of the soul's evolutionary process. Carya (virtue and selfless service); kriya (worshipful sādhanas); yoga (meditation under a guru's guidance); and finally, jñāna, the wisdom state of a realized soul. For those who are striving for enlightenment, these stages may be understood as follows: Carya, kriya, yoga and jñāna are the sequence of the soul's evolutionary process, much like the natural development of a butterfly from egg to larvae, from larvae to pupa, from pupa to caterpillar, and then the final metamorphosis from caterpillar to butterfly."

Lord Murugan at Palani represents the final stage of one's spiritual evolution, embarking the onset of enlightenment.

A rich Tradition

Everything about Palani makes it simple, yet drenched in the mystery of its beautiful tradition that is followed by many to this date.

Many festivals are associated with the temple at Palani.

Below lies the account.

Thai Poosam:

Devotees from Tamil Nadu walk to Palani by foot which is known as Pada Yathra in the local dialect. It begins with flag-web hosting at Perianayagamman, followed by a procession that goes on for as long as ten days.

Panguni Uthiram:

Also celebrated for ten days, devotees carry offerings with holy water, sugar, and coconut primarily among many others. Dances like "Oyilattam, Thappattam, Dhidumattam, Velanattam, Samiyattam" are enjoyed by all accompanied by rural songs.

Chitra Pournami:

A 10 festival was carried out at Arulmigu Lakshmi Narayana temple. Also at the Perianayakiamman Temple Lord Murugan, together with Valli and Deivanai, rallied inside a silver car across the temple.

Agni Nakshatram:

This one, unlike the others, goes on for seven days. The devotees make their way across the Hill by foot, early in the mornings which is considered holy to worship the Hill temple.

Vaikaasi Festival:

This is celebrated for ten days with a procession carried out daily. On the 10th day, a special car procession is witnessed. This is celebrated in all Murugan Temples.

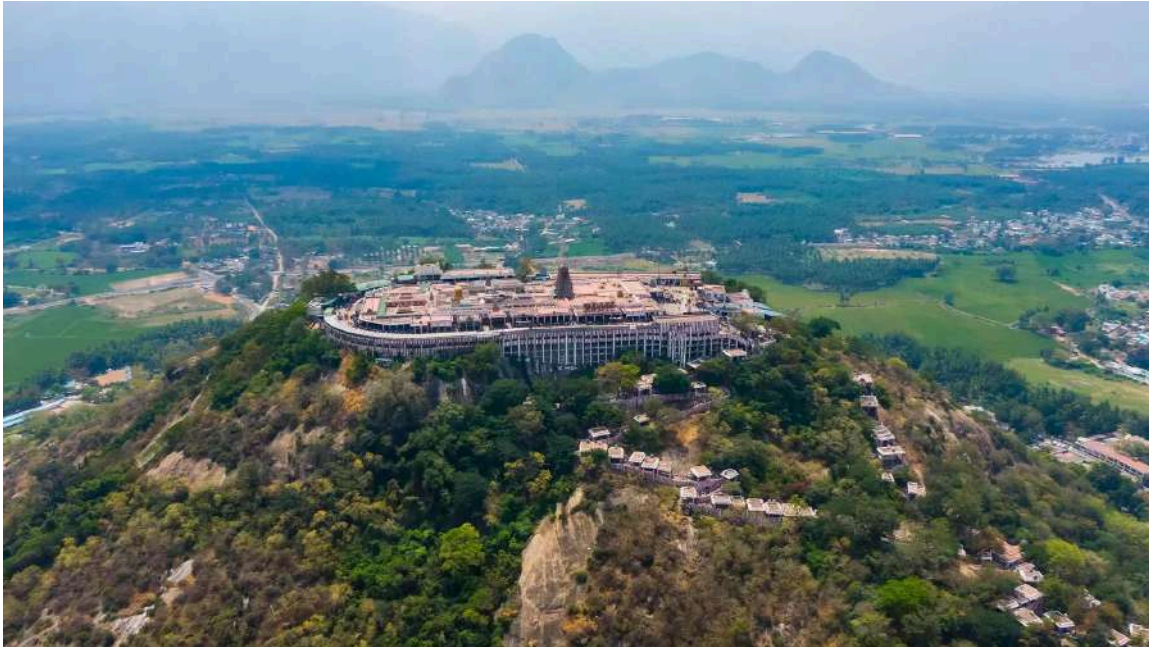
Kandhar Shasti:

This festival revolves around the mythological story of Lord Muruga Killing the demons. On this day only the Lord comes down the Hill, and as he defeats the demons, ascends again.

Ref: pujacraft.com

About Palani Temple

February 8, 2024



Introduction:

Nestled amidst the picturesque landscapes of the Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu, India, Palani Temple stands as a revered testament to centuries of spiritual devotion and cultural richness. Dedicated to Lord Murugan, one of the most venerated deities in Hinduism, this ancient temple has woven itself into the fabric of time, drawing pilgrims and enthusiasts alike to experience its mystical charm.

With a history spanning over 2,000 years, Palani Temple holds the echoes of ancient legends and the footprints of sages. The journey to Palani is not merely a physical pilgrimage; it is an exploration of the spiritual heritage that has been meticulously preserved through the ages. From its humble beginnings attributed to the divine vision of Sage Agastya to the architectural marvels that adorn its sacred grounds, Palani Temple beckons those in search of both tranquility and profound connection with the divine.

Join us on an enlightening journey through the hallowed halls of Palani Temple, where history, architecture, and spirituality converge to create an oasis of serenity and devotion. As we unravel the stories and significance behind this spiritual gem, prepare to be captivated by the timeless allure that continues to draw pilgrims from far and wide to experience the divine energy of Palani.

What is special about Palani Temple?

Palani Temple, nestled amidst the enchanting landscapes of the Western Ghats in Tamil Nadu, holds a special place in the hearts of devotees and seekers alike. Its ancient legacy, spanning over two millennia, adds a layer of sacredness to its existence. Legend has it that the temple's origins trace back to a divine vision received by Sage Agastya, lending an aura of mystique to its foundation. Architecturally, Palani Temple is a masterpiece, showcasing the seamless fusion of Dravidian and Tamil styles through intricate sculptures and towering gopurams. As one of the six abodes of Lord Murugan, the temple becomes a focal point for devotees seeking a profound connection with this revered deity.

A symbolic pilgrimage awaits those who tread the hallowed grounds of Palani. The Elephant Path, a staircase of 659 steps, represents the trials and tribulations of life, offering a metaphorical ascent toward spiritual enlightenment. Yet, the temple embraces modernity without compromising its sanctity, providing alternative routes such as a winch or rope car rides for pilgrims seeking accessibility.

During festivals, especially the grand Thaipusam celebration, Palani Temple pulsates with fervor. Devotees participate in processions, carrying elaborate kavadis, and engage in rituals symbolizing unwavering devotion and penance. The temple's culinary offerings include the famed Panchamirtham, a sweet concoction believed to possess medicinal properties, adding a unique flavor to the spiritual journey.

In response to changing times, Palani Temple's custodians have implemented conservation measures, striking a delicate balance between preserving ancient traditions and incorporating modern amenities. This commitment reflects a respect for the temple's historical significance and a dedication to ensuring its spiritual legacy for generations to come. Palani Temple, with its ancient roots, architectural grandeur, and spiritual practices, beckons all who seek a tranquil and profound connection with the divine.

Who is the famous god of Palani?

The revered deity of Palani is Lord Murugan, a significant figure in Hindu mythology and one of the most worshiped deities in South India. Lord Murugan is considered the presiding god of Palani Temple, making the temple one of the six abodes (Arupadaiveedu) dedicated to him. Also known as Subramanya or Kartikeya, Lord Murugan is depicted as a youthful and powerful deity, often associated with attributes such as wisdom, valor, and divine beauty. Devotees flock to Palani to seek the blessings of Lord Murugan, believing that worshipping at this sacred abode brings spiritual elevation, protection, and fulfillment of their wishes. The temple's sanctity and spiritual ambiance are deeply intertwined with the worship and devotion directed towards Lord Murugan, making Palani a revered pilgrimage destination for followers of Hinduism.



The real name of Palani temple

The official and commonly used name for the temple is "Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy Temple." This title reflects the primary deity worshipped at the temple, which is Lord Murugan, also known as Dhandayuthapani Swamy. While it is commonly referred to as Palani Temple due to its location in the town of Palani in Tamil Nadu, the full name emphasizes the divine aspect of Lord Murugan as the bearer of the "Dhandayutham" or the divine spear.

Symbol of Lord Palani Murugan

The primary symbol associated with Lord Palani Murugan is the "Vel," a divine spear or lance. Lord Murugan is often depicted holding the Vel, which holds significant symbolism in

Hindu mythology. The Vel is considered a powerful and symbolic weapon, representing the triumph of good over evil.

According to Hindu legends, the Vel was gifted to Lord Murugan by Goddess Parvati, his mother, to vanquish the demon Surapadman. The Vel is not only a physical weapon but also a symbol of wisdom, righteousness, and the divine force that eradicates obstacles and ignorance.



In addition to the Vel, Lord Palani Murugan is commonly depicted with other traditional attributes, such as the peacock as his vahana (vehicle) and the symbol of the rooster. These symbols collectively represent various aspects of Lord Murugan's divine character and his role as a protector and guide for devotees.

How many steps are there in Palani?

The sacred pilgrimage path to Palani Temple is known as the "Elephant Path," and it consists of 693 steps leading to the sanctum sanctorum. Pilgrims have the option to climb these steps as a symbolic journey of devotion and penance. The arduous ascent represents the trials and tribulations of life, with devotees seeking spiritual elevation as they make their way to the divine abode of Lord Murugan at the hilltop temple. Alternatively, for those who may find the climb challenging, there are winch and rope car services available to reach the temple complex more comfortably.

The story of the Palani idol



The story of the Palani idol is rooted in Hindu mythology and is associated with Sage Agastya and Lord Murugan. According to the legend, Sage Agastya received a divine vision instructing him to create an idol of Lord Murugan atop the Palani Hills. Following divine guidance, the sage fashioned an idol using a unique mixture called "Navapashanam," which consists of nine deadly poisons.

The making of the idol involved a sacred alchemical process, believed to imbue the idol with mystical and potent qualities. The composition of Navapashanam includes substances like poisons from snakes, minerals, and medicinal herbs, blended in precise proportions. It is said that the resulting idol possesses healing properties and is revered for its spiritual significance.

The Palani idol is distinct in its composition and is believed to embody the divine essence of Lord Murugan. Devotees who visit Palani Temple consider the darshan (sight) of this idol as a sacred and transformative experience, seeking blessings and spiritual solace from the deity believed to reside within the Navapashanam idol. The story of the Palani idol thus adds a layer of mysticism and reverence to the spiritual legacy of the Palani Temple.

Who is Palani Murugan's wife?

In Hindu mythology, Lord Murugan, also known as Palani Murugan, is often depicted as a bachelor or a celibate deity. Unlike some other Hindu gods who have consorts, Lord Murugan is commonly venerated as a single and ascetic deity. His primary focus is on his role as a warrior, a symbol of wisdom, and a divine being associated with the vanquishing of evil forces.

In various Hindu traditions, Lord Murugan is celebrated as the son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. However, the emphasis on his marital status may vary, and his role as a single deity is prominent in many stories and devotional practices. Therefore, while Lord Murugan is an integral part of the divine family, he is typically not associated with a specific wife or consort in the same way as some other Hindu deities.

How long does it take to walk the Palani steps

The time it takes to walk the steps leading to Palani Temple, known as the "Elephant Path," can vary based on individual fitness levels and pace. The pilgrimage involves climbing 693 steps to reach the sanctum sanctorum at the hilltop. On average, it may take approximately 20 to 30 minutes for pilgrims in good health and moderate physical condition to ascend the steps.

However, the duration can be longer for those who prefer a slower pace or need to take breaks during the climb. Devotees often view the ascent as a spiritual journey, and many choose to climb the steps with a sense of reverence and devotion, taking the time to absorb the spiritual atmosphere and make the pilgrimage a meaningful experience.

It's important to note that alternative modes of reaching the temple, such as using the winch or rope car services, are available for those who may find the climb physically challenging or prefer a more convenient approach.

Why did Murugan go to Palani?

The mythology associated with Murugan's connection to Palani involves a divine incident. According to Hindu legends, Sage Agastya received a celestial fruit, or "gnana pazham" (fruit of wisdom), from Lord Shiva. The sage wished to offer this sacred fruit to his two disciples, but he faced a dilemma: he had only one fruit, and he wanted to treat both disciples equally.

To resolve this predicament, Sage Agastya sought the guidance of Lord Murugan. In response, Murugan transformed himself into a young boy and approached the sage. He

ingeniously suggested that the fruit be cut into two halves and given to both disciples, ensuring fairness in the distribution.

Impressed by Murugan's wisdom, Sage Agastya requested the deity to stay at Palani and bless the devotees with his presence. Lord Murugan obliged, choosing Palani as one of his abodes, and it is said that the Palani Temple was established on the Palani Hills in Tamil Nadu to commemorate this divine event. The deity, also known as Dhandayuthapani Swamy, is worshipped at the temple, making it one of the significant pilgrimage sites dedicated to Lord Murugan.

The dress code for Palani



The Palani Temple, like many other Hindu temples, has a dress code in place to maintain the sanctity and reverence of the sacred space. Devotees and visitors are expected to adhere to traditional and modest attire when entering the temple premises. The general dress code guidelines for Palani Temple include:

Men: It is customary for men to wear traditional Indian attire such as dhoti or veshti (a cloth wrapped around the waist) when entering the temple. Wearing shirts is generally allowed, but shorts, lungis, and other casual or Western attire may not be considered appropriate.

Women: Women are typically required to wear traditional Indian attire such as a saree, salwar kameez, or a long skirt and blouse with a dupatta. It is advisable to avoid short skirts, shorts, and sleeveless tops.

Footwear: Devotees are expected to enter the temple premises barefoot as a sign of respect. It is customary to leave footwear outside the designated areas before entering the temple.

Adhering to the dress code ensures that visitors maintain the sacred atmosphere of the temple and show reverence to the deity. It is recommended to check with the temple authorities for any specific dress code updates or variations that may be in place during special events or festivals.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, Palani Temple emerges as a timeless testament to spirituality, history, and architectural splendor. Nestled in the Western Ghats, this sacred abode of Lord Murugan captivates pilgrims and enthusiasts alike with its ancient legacy dating back over 2,000 years. The architectural brilliance, a fusion of Dravidian and Tamil styles, adds a unique charm to the spiritual oasis.

The symbolic pilgrimage up the Elephant Path, consisting of 693 steps, mirrors life's journey and offers devotees a transformative experience. Lord Murugan's presence, depicted through the iconic Vel, and the temple's association with divine legends further elevate its significance.

As Palani Temple continues to welcome visitors, the fusion of tradition and modernity becomes evident. Festivals like Thaipusam and unique rituals such as the offering of Panchamirtham add vibrancy to the spiritual tapestry of Palani.

In this sacred haven, where ancient traditions are preserved alongside modern amenities, Palani Temple stands not only as a physical structure but as a profound connection to the divine. The stories, rituals, and the palpable spirituality enveloping Palani invite all who seek a moment of tranquility, a glimpse into history, and a touch of the divine. As we conclude our exploration, may the echoes of Palani's mystique linger, inspiring spiritual journeys and fostering a deeper understanding of this remarkable cultural and religious treasure.

Arulmigu Dandayudhapani Swami Devasthanam, Palani



Lord Murugan is the deity of the Tamil Land. Palani (*Tiru Avinankudi*) is the third *Padai Veedu*. The temple at Palani is an ancient one, situated at an elevation of 1500 feet above sea level. The deity of Palani is known as Dandayudhapani Swami, the Lord having the Staff in his Hand. The deity at the *sanctum sanctorum* is made out of an amalgam of nine minerals popularly called *Navabashana*. The deity is in a standing position with a baton in his hand. He has the look of a person who has renounced all worldly pomp. He has just a loincloth besides the baton. He is a mute messenger of the great precept 'Renounce all to reach Me'. The icon is unique in the whole world. It was made by Siddha Bhogar by combining nine poisonous substances (*navabashana*). Murugan signifies beauty and Lord Murugan of Kurinji land is the god of Beauty and Youth.

The Legendary, Historical and Spiritual Significance of the Hill Temple

There is a legend about how Lord Murugan came to this sacred spot. Narada Muni, a sage, brought a golden mango to the divine court of Lord Shiva when Lord Shiva was seated with his consort Parvati and His children Lord Vinayakar and Lord Subrahmanya. Narada gave the fruit to Lord Siva and implored Him to eat since it was a rare, miraculous *Jñanapalam*, the fruit of wisdom. As a loving husband, Lord Siva gave it to Parvati and requested her to eat. As a loving mother, she wanted to give the fruit to her children. As there was only one fruit and it should not be cut, they announced a contest and said that the winner would be given the fruit. Whoever completes one round of the globe first will be given the fruit.

Lord Subrahmanya mounted His peacock to go around the world. Lord Vinayakar circumambulated around His parents, symbolising the world, and got the fruit. On return, Lord Subrahmanya found that He was cheated. In anger, He renounced His family and came to this spot to settle forever. Lord Shiva and Parvati came to pacify Him. They said, "*Pazham*

Nee" ('You are the Fruit'). Hence the name Palani is a popular syncopation of the two words mentioned.



Golden Vimanam (at left) and Raja Gopuram, Palani



Tiru Avinankudi Tirukovil. Background: Palani Malai



Bhogar, using the nine different minerals, creates the Dandapāni *vighraha* and sanctifies it.

The presiding deity, Lord Dandayudhapani Swami, is the son of Lord Shiva and son-in-law of Vishnu. He has other names such as *Kulandaivelan*, *Balasubrahmanyam*, *Shanmukhan*, *Devasenapati*, *Swaminathan*, *Vallimanalan*, *Devayanaimanalan*, *Palaniandavar*, *Kuriñjiandavar*, *Arumugan*, *Jñana Pandita*, *Saravanan*, *Sevar Kodiyan*, etc. Tamils, Keralites, Bengalis, Sri Lankans, Malaysians, Fijians, Africans, Australians and Americans to name a few come here to worship Lord Muruga. Thus Murugan worship cuts across provincial boundaries and national frontiers.

Cheaman Perumal, a ruler of Kerala, built the main temple perhaps in the 7th Century AD. The Nayaks built the Navaranga Mandapam which is a fascinating stone structure incorporated by four pillars and endowed with nine bays. The other portions of the temple have been built by the Pandiya kings, besides a number of local heads, religious groups and individual devotees.

Pujas

There are six pujas every day. At 5 am the Lord gives *Visvarupa Darshana*. The first puja is *Vizhapuja* at 7:15 am followed by *Kala sandhi* at 8am, *Uchikalam* at 12 noon, *Sayaraksha* at 6 pm and *Rakkalam* at 8 pm.

Golden Chariot

The Golden Chariot goes round the praharam on the top of the hill in a ceremonious procession along with *nadaswaram*, *Tiruppukazh* music and other temple paraphernalia at 7 pm on all Karthigai days and as per the request of the devotees. The illuminated Golden Car is a veritable fairyland.

Festivals

Panguniuttiram, *Thai Pucam*, *Kanda Sasthi*, *Agni Nakshatram* are the major festivals. *Vaikasi Vishakam*, *Tirukkartikai* and other festivals are also celebrated.

Kavadi & Pada Yatra

Devotees from various places bring different types of [kavadis](#) and offerings to the Lord by [pada yatra or foot pilgrimage](#), the most popular time being Thai Pucam.

Bhogar Shrine

The Bhogar Shrine is in the southwestern corridor of the hill temple. Siddhar Bhogar created the icon (the amalgam of nine minerals) and did daily services. He lived long ago, perhaps 3000 BC. A medical prodigy as he was, he could prepare the amalgam on nine medicinal minerals in proper proportion. In this shrine, pujas are offered to Navadurga, Bhuvaneswari and Maragatha Lingam that were worshipped by Bhogar. It is said that there is a subterranean tunnel linking the shrine with the sanctum sanctorum through which Bhogar is said to go to the main idol and perform daily pujas as he is said to be only in *nirvikalpa samadhi*.

Pañchamirtam & Rakkala Sandanam

Lord Muruga is *Abhisekapriya* (fond of anointment), especially Pañchamirta (fruit jam having medicinal properties). The Devasthanam prepares pañchamirta, vibhuti and other items which are sold for a reasonable price. Like Pañchamirta, the Rakkala Sandanam (sandal paste placed on the deity during puja).

Haulage Winch

To climb the hill, there are also winch trolleys in addition to the traditional route of 697 steps.



Winch trolley, Palani Malai

The Hundial

The Hundial is the cash collection box. It is the backbone of the economy of the temple. Palani Dandayudhapani Swami Devasthanam has the honour of being the temple of highest income in Tamil Nadu and second only in all India after Tirupati.



Annadanam (Offering meals to poor pilgrims)

Giving *annadanam* at the hill temple at 12:30 pm is a useful scheme for the benefit of the devotees. If a donor deposits Rs 25,000, the interest of it will be utilised for *annadanam* on a particular day as per the request of the donor.

Tonsure Ceremony

Tonsure ceremony is a special feature of Palani. Many devotees of all ages perform tonsure ceremonies at Palani.

Constituent Temples

Tiruvavinankudi, Periyanaagaki Amman temple, Shanmuganadhi group of temples, Idumban Hills, Vishnu temple, Pada Vinayagar temple, 108 Vinayagar shrines around the hill temple, the Kuriñjiandawar temple (Kodaikkanal), the Velappar temple at Poomparai (Kodaikkanal) are the important constituent temples administered by Palani Dandayudhapani Swami Devasthanam.

Management

This temple is under the control of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu. There is a Joint Commissioner/Executive Officer to look after the day-to-day administration of Palani temples. He works in close association with the Chairman, Board of Trustees and other members.



Devasthanam pilgrim accommodation: "Dandayudhapani Nilaiyam"

Accommodation

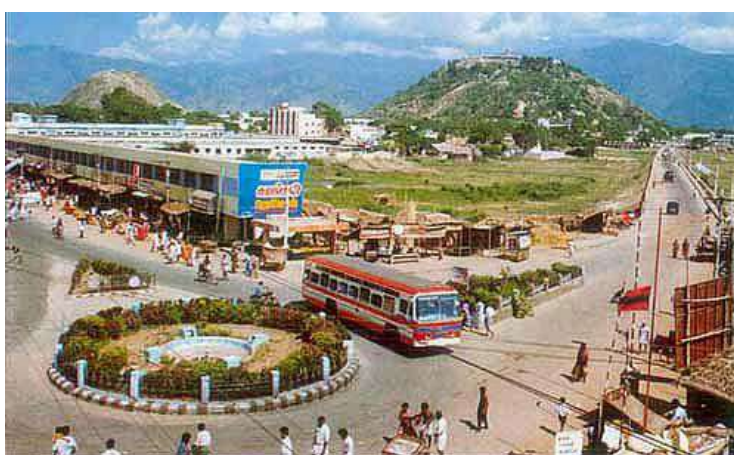
The Devasthanam has constructed pilgrims' rest houses, single, double, deluxe and air-conditioned rooms as well as cottages. Reasonable rates are collected from the devotees.

Transportation

Palani is reached by just a three hours drive from any of the nearest airports: Coimbatore, Madurai and Trichy. It is an important railway station on the Dindugal-Coimbatore line. The nearest tourist information office is at Madurai. There is a Palani Devasthanam Information Centre at the Palani bus stand.

Shopping

Panchamirtam, *vibhuti*, souvenirs of Murugan, toys, handicrafts, pictures of the Lord and publications of the Devasthanam are among the souvenirs one can bring home from Palani.



View of Palani Malai from Palani town centre

Ref: palani.org

Palani, the Sacred Abode of Lord Murugan

by V.S. Krishnan

Murugan, the God passionately loved and worshipped in Tamil Nadu, is known as the God of Infinite Qualities. He symbolizes knowledge, compassion, kindness, valour and beauty. He is the God of love who protects his devotees and fulfills their aspirations. He is the God of beauty who is admired by millions of devotees throughout.



மூர்த்தி - அருள்மிகு தண்டபதிபாளி கவாதி

Lord Murugan is the embodiment of knowledge, the Lord who has taken the role of a master guru even to his father, Lord Siva at Swami Malai. He is the Lord of infinite power who has destroyed the mighty Soorapadman at Tiruchendur. He has taken the role of a Commander-in-Chief and mobilised the army at Thiruparankundram and came to be known as Deva Sena Pati.

Here, after marrying the daughter of Indira, he has also come to be known as Devasena Pati, husband of Devasena. By marrying Valli at Tiruttani, he has shown that it will be possible for the individual soul to unite with the eternal power by means of pure devotion. Just as the fruits appear fully matured, ready to be plucked, he appears at Pazhamudir Solai, as an old man, fully matured in knowledge and ready to impart his knowledge.

When Lord Siva brought a rare fruit of knowledge, both his sons, Ganesha and Murugan claimed it. Lord Shiva then put up a contest; thereby the fruit would go to one who goes round the universe and returns first. While Murugan went all over the universe, mounted on his peacock, Ganesha went around his parents, Siva-Parvati and claimed the fruit on the

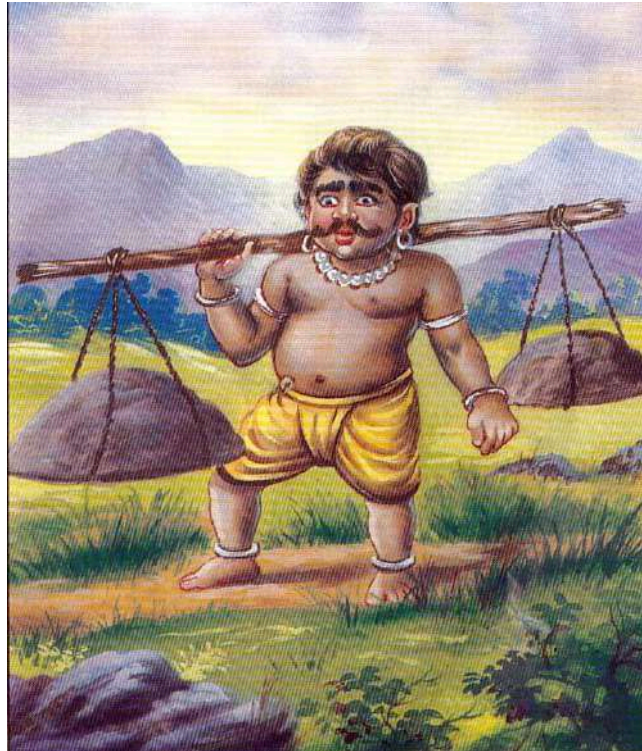
ground that one's parents represented the whole universe and received the fruit. Here, the fruit remained as the symbol of ultimate knowledge.



While Lord Ganesha sought it from his parents, Siva-Parvati, Murugan sought it from the all-pervading universe. Addressing the disappointed Muruga, Parvati stated; 'You are the fruit' ('Pazham Nee') which is the reinstatement of maha vakya, Tat tvam asi (You are That). "You are the fruit of knowledge, you are the embodiment of knowledge", said Parvati. According to legend, renouncing everything worldly, Murugan has gone to South (Pothigai Hills) and chosen his abode at Palani. Appearing as Jnana Pandita, he radiates the light of knowledge from here and blesses the devotees.

We find great significance being accorded to the weapon of Vel (lance) held by Lord Murugan. It is said that Goddess Parvati has presented Murugan with the powerful Vel as a weapon to destroy Soorapadman. Arunagirinathar has composed many songs like Vel Virutham on the significance of Vel. Yet, we find a staff (danda) and not a Vel with Dandayudhapani at Palani. Perhaps, the origin of Palani Andavar dates back to several centuries when the weapon of Vel had not got so much prominence.

According to legend, Saint Agasthiyar, an ardent devotee of Lord Siva, had asked his disciple, Idumbasuran to bring the two hillocks, Sivagiri and Saktigiri from Kailasha to the South for his worship. Idumban connected the two hillocks with the help of a wooden piece in the centre and tied the loose ends with a snake and proceeded towards the South.



On reaching the South, he placed them at a spot to rest for a while. But later, when he tried to lift it, he could not. He then spotted a youth wearing a piece of loincloth and holding a staff (danda) atop the hill. He asked the lad to move away. But the child, claiming right over the hill, refused to oblige. Soon Idumban realised that the boy was none other than Lord Murugan and paid obeisance to Him. Lord Murugan showered His blessings and proclaimed that anyone coming to his place with similar arch-like objects would get prosperity and upliftment.

Thus was born the kavadi pattern of worship. The kavadi gets its name by the contents such as milk, flower, rose water, etc. In some rare cases they are said to contain fish (Matsya Kavadi) and snakes (Sarpa Kavadi). There are artistes who swing and dance balancing the kavadi on their head.



Palani is for all generations.

Saint Bhogar, a siddhar, is credited with the creation of the idol of Palani Dandayudhapani. Bhogar had a vision of Lord Murugan and he has given shape to it with the powerful Nava Pashanam. He wanted the benefits of the grace of Murugan to reach all the devotees and so he made the Dandayudhapani Siddhar Bhogar idol with NavaPashanam which is the combination of nine precious and rare components. A shrine to Bhogar exists in the southwestern corridor of the temple, which, by legend, is said to be connected by a tunnel to a cave in the heart of the hill, where Bhogar continues to meditate and maintain his vigil.



The temple around the Murugan shrine at Palani was built by King Cheraman Perumal, the contemporary of Saint Sundarar, sometime in the eleventh century. Arunagirinathar mentions this in his song Nadha Vindhu...Cherar Konguvai Kavoor Nannattathil. King Cheraman Perumal was a great Shiva devotee. While he composed poems on Siva in Tamil, he

scripted poetry in stone for Murugan at Palani. Though Cheraman Perumal constructed the temple, it is believed that the presiding deity of Dandayudhapani existed even long before.

The magnificent temple that keeps attracting lakhs of pilgrims is located at a height of 150 metres and on foot one has to climb 693 steps to reach the sanctum sanctorum. There is also a long winding steep way known as the elephant path. As the devotees reach the top they are greeted by the majestic Raja Gopura. Dandayudhapani appears as an embodiment of knowledge, (Gnana Swaroopa) his serene face radiating the spirit of love and harmony.

Palani Malai by night



While every day Palani wears a festive look, it is a spectacular event on the day of Thai Poosam. This is the sacred day which falls in the Tamil month of Thai on the star Poosam (15 January-15 February) . This is the day when Parvati gave Murugan the powerful Vel, the weapon to destroy the evil forces represented by Sooran. The Thaipooam festivities start ten days in advance and end on Poosam day. Devotees carrying Kavadi thron the hill during this time.

Six different pujas are performed to the Palani idol, symbolising the six points of time, from dawn to dusk. It is also said that they represent the six divine gunas of Arumuga. It is remarkable to see the Lord majestically inching His way round the temple with the twilight sun casting its golden rays on the decorated golden chariot.

The traditional direction of most of the temples is facing east but Palani Andavar faces west. A devotee from the neighbouring State of Kerala said that by facing west, Palani Andavar is

showering His blessing on the people of Kerala, God's Own Country. Tirupalani Thaiposam Annadhana Sangham, Calicut, has been conducting mass feeding (annadanam) during Thaiposam for many years.

An important part connected with various rituals at Palani is abhishekam, anointment. Abhishekam is done to the idols with various items like pure water, sandalwood paste, vibhuti (sacred ash), milk etc. The most prominent abhishekam is with panchamrutam, a sacred paste made with jaggery, ripe hill plantain, dates, etc. It is believed that milk and panchamrutham that pass through this idol in abhishekam get high medicinal value. After the abhishekam, the idol is adorned with various attires and garlands.

Palani abhishekam

The Lord appears in grandeur and splendour in the role of a King (Raja Alangaram), ruling over the entire universe, bringing prosperity and affluence. But soon, the Lord appears as Dandayudhapani, with a loin-cloth, giving out the message that one who renounces his aspirations and withdraws from the world alone would reach the Lord.

Palani temple finds mention in many religious texts and Sangam literature. Saint Arunagirinathar has composed over 90 songs about Palani Andavar and about Bala Murugan at Tiru Avinangudi, in the basement. Some of the notable songs are Arumugam Arumugam, Ulaga Pasu Pasa, etc.

Palani Murugan Apart from saints like Nakkeerar, Kachiappa Sivachariyar and Arunagirinathar, many other saints like Sri Chidambara Swamigal, Sri Kumara Guruparar, Sri Devaraya Swamigal, Vadalur Sri Ramalinga Adigalar, Sri Vannacharapam Dandhapani Swamigal, Sri Bala Murugan Adimai, Sri Pamban Swamigal, Sri Sachidananda Swamigal and Sri Murugan Kripananda Variyar have hailed the glory of Muruga.

To the ever-increasing number of devotees who climb the hill to worship Him, the Lord showers his bountiful blessings. Palani Dandayudhapani is the Lord of abundant grace, the ultimate refuge for the people caught in the illusions of life. He is [Kali Yuga Varada](#), He who liberates the people from the morass of ignorance and delusions.

One who goes to Palani after discarding his individuality and ego, with a mind of detachment, with a heart full of love, and worship Murugan with full of devotion would free himself from all the consequences of karma and evil effects and attain the Lotus Feet of Murugan.

Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple, Palani

History

The specialty of Tirumala

Thiruvarul Dathumbayat Tamil Nadu, Chera and Pandyan together praised Palani, the patriarch of Kongu Vaikavur country, as having timeless antiquity and pride. In Tamil literature it is known as Sithan Haiva. The time of construction of Arul Thirumeni by Gnanathandayuthapani, the medicine on the hill, is caught in the timeline. Of the people who visited Atrumeni To remove the bondage of birth and engage in worldly glory forever.

Structure of Tirumala

At a distance of about 4 km from Palani, the Kodaikanal hill, which is a part of the western mountain range, and many other mountain ranges appear green with silvery mughals looming above. A little distance from Palani Hill is another small hill known as Itumban Hill. Murugan Temple is situated on top of Palani Hill. Murugan is placed in the sanctum sanctorum and is holding a kol (rod) in Andi's kolam. This sculpture is not made of stone like other sculptures. The Thirumeni of Lord Muruga was made by a Siddha called Bogar along with nine types of medicines (navabhasana). Shanmukha river is 2 km west of this place. It is interpreted as a holy solution. The Six Rivers namely Palaru, Varatharu, Bhatularu, Suruliyaru, Kallaru and Pachaiyaru come together to form the name Shanmukha River.

Thala Puranam

Historical Details of Sthalam :

The name of this town in Sangham period was Pothini. Pothini later became Palani. The region is referred to as Vaiyavinadu and Aavinadu in Sangha literature. Avinankudi is the present-day city of Palani, which is represented by Nakkeerar in Thirumurugu Aatrupadai, wherein he mentions that Lord appeared with Valli in Palani. No mention is made about hill temples by Nakeerar in his work. Hill temple shrine was established by Bogar Siddhar. This is the place where Began (one of the seven vallals) lived, who is considered to be one of the shopkeepers known as Vaiyavikkoman. Pothini was the capital of Vayavinad. He is famous as the one who gave the blanket to the peacock. The place where he was born is known as Avinankudi. So after his birth the town came to be known as Aavinankudi. They are also known as Vel Avikomaan. After Began, Vel Avikomaanpadhuman also ruled Pothini. One of the Sangha literatures of Agananooru refers Palani as below Vandupadath thaithintha kanni onkazhal Uruva kuthirai mazhavar ottiya Murugan Narpor neduvel aavi Arukot tiyanai pothini (chap. 1:1-4), Muzhavurazh thinithol neduvel aavi Ponnudai nedunagar Pothini (Agam. 61: 15-16) Nakeerar also mentions that it is special to mention that this town was known as the resting place of Murugan and as a great city and a prosperous one as Ponnudainedu Nagar Pothini. In the songs that refer to the border of the Kongu country, the Palani region is located in the eastern part of the country. The region is given as Vaikavur South in traditions and Palani as South in Kongu Mandala Sathakam. During the Sangam period, it was the

connecting part of Tamil Nadus east and west. The highway from the lower part of Tamil Nadu passes through this town. Merchants used to pass through this city on the main road to Musiri and other provinces which was the port city of the Cheras on the west coast. Pepper and spices are grown in abundance in this region and in the hills. Roman merchants who bought these came through this city. Excavations in the towns of Thandikudi and Porunthal have revealed the extent of life of the Sangam period Tamils in the continuous hilly and plain areas. Also, the area has a large number of gold coins minted by the Romans. This shows that Palani was in a prosperous area.

Thala Virutcham:- Sthalam Type Description Prayer Sthalam (A temple known for granting the wishes of the devotees in return for a vow) Thala Virutcham : Kadambam Tree **Thala Theertham** : Shanmuga Nadhi **Aagamam** : Saiva Agamas Kumara Thanthiram

Description of the Songs

1. Thirupugazh 2. Palani Thiruvayiram 3. Palanipathigam, Palani Nanmanimalai, Thirupalani venpa, Palani venpa anthathi, Palanapuri maalai, Palani Koil Vinnappam 4. Palani Pillaitamil 5. Kumara visaiyagirivela chinnavovaiyan 6. Mayil vidu thoodhu 7. Palani thalapuranam

Sages and Divine Poets related with Palani :

1. Arunagirinadhar 2. Vannasarabam Dhandapani Swamigal 3. Mambala Kavisinga Navalar 4. Jamin Visaiyagirivela chinnavovaiyan 5. Vaiyapuri pallu 6. Ku.Nadesa Gounder 7. Balasubramaniya Kavirayar

Literary Background

Tamil Nadu is brimming with divine grace. Cheras and Pandiyas together glorified the ancient city of Palani, whose antiquity could not be assessed. This place was also known as Siddhan Valvu. The time of consecration of the Idol of Lord Muruga on the top of the hill is unable to be fixed under timeframe. Worshipping that Lord will liberate the souls from the cycle of birth and death which is considered the most difficult of all the ills affecting the mankind.

Mythological Background

Vijayanagara Kingdom: The Vijayanagara Emperors like Mallikarjunar and Krishnadevaraya contributed much and their inscriptions are found in the temple. In that, there are evidence about the follow up of a special Poojai in the temple during the time of Mallikarjunarayar. And also SandhiPoojai for three times a day was followed and praised as MahaPoojai. It was followed to offer Amudhu (sacred food) to Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy by which the arrangement for 'Thirunandha Lamp' and 'TirumalaThirumanjanam' are being made. For that the land was given which is in the West of Ravimangalam village, the south of the road leading to Kolumam village and it is also located in the south of the Pandrimalai road.

Temple Facilities

S.No. ↑↓	Facility Name ↑↓	Facility Location
1	Golden Chariot	Hill Temple
2	Vehicle Parking	West Giri Street Tourist Bus Stand, East Giri Street Tourist Bus Stand
3	Dormitory Facility	West Giri Street, East Giri Street, South Giri Street, Ottanchatram, Tharmathupatti, Udhiyur
4	First Aid Medical Centre	Hill Temple, Winch Station, Foot Patway
5	Lactating Mothers Room	Winch Lower Station, Ropecar Lower Station, Mangammal Mandaopam
6	Marriage Hall	Arulmigu pattathuvinayagar Thirukoli campus
7	Karunai Illam	Palani
8	Thulabharam Facility	Hill Temple
9	Vedha Paada Institutions	Palani
10	Tonsure Facility	Around Adivaram and Shanmuga River

Shrines and Deities

S.No. ↑↓	Subshrines Name ↑↓	Subshrines Details
1	Arulmigu Dhandayuthapani Swamy	Lord Muruga had just been outsmarted...
2	Kailasanathar Sannathi	Arulmigu Kailasanathar
3	Malaikolunthu Amman Sannathi	Arulmigu Malaikolunthu Amman
4	Malaikolunthu Sivan Sannathi	Arulmigu Malaikolunthu Sivan
5	Anantha vinayagar Sannathi	Arulmigu Anantha Vinayagar Sannathi is...
6	Sri Kuravadivelar Sannathi	Sri Kuravadivelar Sannathi is Located...
7	Arulmigu Kummini mayili vagana velayutha swamy...	Arulmigu Kummini mayili vagana velayutha swamy...

Temple Timings and Pooja Details

Nadai Opening Time
05:45 AM IST - 01:00 PM IST
01:00 PM IST - 09:00 PM IST
Nadai Closing Time
On Thaipusam ten days, Panguni Uttaram ten days, Kandhar Shashti ten days, monthly Karthigai, Maha Deepa Karthigai, Thai Pongal, Tamil and English New Year, all days of Margazhi month and day of Diwali, the shrine opens at 4.00 am and closes after 10.30 pm depending on the inflow of devotees.

Pooja Details

Show10entries

Search...

S.No.	Pooja Name	Pooja Timings
1	Vilaa pooja (Sadhu Sanniyasi Alangaram)	06:40 AM to 07:15 AM IST
2	Sirukala Shanthi Pooja (Vedar Alangaram)	08:00 AM to 08:30 AM IST
3	Kalasandhi pooja (Balasubramaniyar Alangaram)	09:00 AM to 09:30 AM IST
4	Uchikkala Pooja (Valithekal Alangaram)	12:00 PM to 12:45 PM IST
5	Sayaraksha Pooja (Evening) (Raja Alangaram)	05:30 PM to 06:15 PM IST
6	Rakaala Pooja (Pushpa Alangaram)	08:30 PM to 09:00 PM IST

Poojas Fee details

S.No. ↑↓	Fees Description ↑↓	Remarks ↑↓	Fees ↑↓
1	Vila Pooja		150.00
2	kala santhi Pooja kattalai		900.00
3	SiruKala Santhi Pooja		150.00
4	Siru Kalasanthi Pooja Kattalai		900.00
5	Villa Pooja Kattalai		900.00
6	Irakala Pooja		150.00
7	Irakala Pooja Kattalai		900.00
8	Sayaratchai Pooja Kattalai		900.00
9	Kala Santhi Pooja		150.00
10	Sayaratchai Pooja		150.00

Donations Info

See the Web site.

Executive Officer

Thiru. MARIMUTHU SELVARAJ

Joint Commissioner / Exec.officer

Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple

315 Head Office, North Giri Street,
Palani,
Dindigul - 624601.

Landline No. : 04545241293

Email : Jceomdu_32203[dot]hrce[at]tn[dot]gov[dot]in

Contact info

Arulmigu Dhandayuthapaniswamy Temple

315 Head Office, North Giri Street,
Palani,
Dindigul - 624601.

Phone Number : 04545241293

Email : Jceomdu_32203[dot]hrce[at]tn[dot]gov[dot]in

Map



Ref: tripadvisor.in

Palani Murugan Temple

Comments by Visitors

 **mumofason**
Coimbatore, India • 22 contributions

1 1 ...

●●●●●

Amazing!!

Jul 2019 • Family

Visiting Palani has been on my wish list for quite sometime now. And I must say it was a divine experience. For those who can walk it up the 693 steps, I would recommend you go by the stairs, as the winch and rope cars take a lot of waiting time on weekends (I visited on a weekend).

The temple is well maintained and we chose to go by the 100 Rs special ticket. Beware of the priests who will ask you whether you want to do special puja and demand money. It is best to focus on seeing Lord Muruga in his glorious form than be taken in by the priests.

Also for those who believe in Siddhar's, all the 18 Siddhar's are present outside the main temple. Sage Bogar's Jeeva Samadhi is also a must visit, which is also outside the main sanctum sanctorum.

Do buy the panchamritham from the temple authorised stores.

We look forward to coming back soon!

[Read less](#) ^

Written July 21, 2019

**Kannan Pasamanickam**

Petaling Jaya, Malaysia • 408 contributions

👍 1 ...

**A very satisfying pilgrimage**

Jul 2019 • Couples

Following the challenges that I survived in 2018, my wife Angie felt it was an opportune moment to go to Palani, pay our gratitude to Lord Muruga and also fulfill one more item on her bucket list. We stayed at the GanPat - see my earlier write up. We prepared for the visit by observing a vegetarian fast. Prayer items - milk, coconuts, camphor, sandal wood paste, Areca nuts, bananas, flower garlands were bought following instructions of a lady vendor at the foot of Palani Hill - the next time we will buy these items ourselves and save a bundle. The temple can be reached by foot - 1000 steps or by cable or rope car - we chose to walk though Angie had some doubts initially - the walking sticks proved very helpful to our 60 year old legs and we will advise this to all above 60 to consider. We stopped to pray at the Amman temple mid way and again at the Ganesha Shrine just a few steps before the main temple. All in it took us about 45 minutes but we did not feel exhausted. There were great views of Palani town and surrounding country side along the way and from the top. For INR 150 you get to sit in front of the sanctum sanatorium and pray for longer. Don't get duped by some of the priests who will want you to part with large amounts of cash to get more special prayers done - my father always taught us that this was not an expectation of God's but the creation of a greedy man! I was very impressed by the cleanliness of the temple and its surroundings - the temple committee has done an excellent job of employing an army of workers to continuously sweep the road around the base of the hill (where I and other devotees do a 40 minute / 2 kilometer circumbulation) as well as the steps leading up to the temple.

[Read less](#) ^

Written July 6, 2019

**Mani**

1 contribution

👍 1 ...

**Parking problem**

Jul 2019 • Family

I got very good darshan, andavar in king appearance, everything good there. Be aware about the parking, when we enter to the road, some people stand and stop the car and give token for car parking, asking to pay 50 or 60 rupees, when we see those people don't stop there, below the andavar hill lot of free parking provided by devasthanam board. Don't stop anywhere unless you reach the andavar hill bottom.

Written July 13, 2019

**Thandapani V**

Thane, India • 41 contributions

👍 0 ...

**Visit to Pazhani in June 2019**

Jun 2019

We had been to Pazhani between 24th June 2019 and 25th June 2019. You have three options to reach the shrine. You can use the steps or rope way or winch. We had great darshan of Lord Murugan on 24th June 2019. We also witnessed beautiful Golden Chariot being taken around the shrine. We sat through complete Abhishakam of Lord Murugan in the morning of 25th June 2019. It was a great experience.

Written July 2, 2019



MOHANJSM
1 contribution

👍 0 ...



Best of arupadai veedu....!!

Jun 2019

Visited the the palani temple for early morning darisanam, started climbing the elephant path of the hill that takes around~ 40 mins. Was there at hill top @ 6 AM, took a 100/- ticket and had a quick darshan in half an hour.

There are several alangarams done for deity right from early morning. the one I had seen was sanniyasi vesham. Never imagined god can be seen like this in temples. A thrilling, and highly spiritual place..lot of positive vibes.

Don't forget to get the panchamirtham sold at hill top shops.

Written June 4, 2019



psp
Chennai (Madras), India • 371 contributions

👍 0 ...



very divine

May 2019 • Family

one my favorite god n temple in tamilnadu... we visit atleast twice a year...this year we visited during vaigasi visagam... very crowd n hve to wait in a long queue for winch and rope car...so we choose steps to go to hill temple...after finishing golden chariot darshan we go for darshan in 200 rs. queue and we had darshan within half an hour... had a blessed experience...



Written May 30, 2019



giridharsony
Kottayam, India • 75 contributions

👍 2 ...



Palani temple give us full happiness

Mar 2019 • Family

Hara Haro hara...By the blessings of lord muruga I got a very comfortable journey,stay & darshan . On 29.03.19 went with family(son,daughter,wife & in-laws).Started from wife's home(pambanar)-kumily-cumbum-theni-periyakulam-sembatty-batlagundu-palani.(up&down-450 km).time taken 5hours(one side).Will find some potholes in sembatty to batlagundu road.Children will enjoy kumily to cumbum ghat road with several hair pin bends & monkeys(close the vehicle's windows always).

If you go with family - following online reservations are available at palani temple official site (palanimurugantemple.org) which help hassle free darshan .

1. a/c rooms - devasthanam accomodations - (on reasonable rate. I took 4 bedded & 2 bed rooms. Very economical for 1 night stay). Good parking, plenty of water & rooms nearby temple steps. But no in-house restaurant. Will not get bed coffee etc. Keep id card which u give while booking. I paid the whole amount while online booking. But the wonder is that the whole amount will be collected at Hotel reception as deposit. This will be returned at the time of check out.
2. winch train - up & down hill - compulsory for senior citizens
3. special darshan ticket - will save your time,get a nearby view of lord
4. donation - better you opt this / pooja booking(pls see that you may be cheated if u contact a local guide or priests stood near the darshan queue).
5. Golden chariot booking etc.

To take a ticket for winch train we have to wait 1 or 2 hour on busy days if we have no online ticket. At temple normal darshan queue will take sometimes 3 or 4 hours. We cannot predict the crowd on each day at palani. Expect large groups - crowd - on Saturday & Sunday. Check the festival season/days. Temple office say that for thaipusam festival above 1 lakh devotees (per day) will come. 2 storey Devasom hygiene tonsuring centre is there left to dandapani nilayam & near to winch station. Don't go to local barbers. Rs 30 charged by devasom. But barbers will ask RS 100 for each. After tonsuring, returned to room, took bath & went to steps by 6pm. The steps are steep & not good for aged persons. I send my in-laws by winch (20 mts for them to reach top). But Myself along with family went by steps and it was a good experience. Good drinking water (with reverse osmosis) available throughout the steps. Took 1 hour to reach top. Very lucky then to see the golden chariot pradikshanam. Became very happy so that I got nearby view due to my sp. darshan ticket. Lord muruga was beautiful in alangaram, diamond crown, ornaments, diamond studded VEL etc. Happiness.. what should I say... I gave some Rs. to a priest who performed some pooja for me. He gave chandan, viboothi etc. Went to Bhogar Samadhi. Here u have some resting place - can sit on the floor. After darshan bought the famous panchamritham and laddu. The size of laddu became very small when compared to 2011. An average veg restaurant available near winch station uphill temple. Good dosa, tea, poori Masala etc. Returned downhill by winch. Next day morning I took a horse cart ride around adivaram road. Driver asked Rs 250/- I agreed for Rs 150/- (Even if I know it is also high). Many curio shop avail in round adivaram road. I bought a photo, sweets, toy for son, bangles etc. Left by 11.30 am, took meals at theni & reached home by 5 pm.

A normal journey to palani by bus will cost within Rs 300/- for a person other than bus ticket. You came by bus early morning. Go for tonsuring. Have public bathrooms near tonsuring centre. Have breakfast. Climb hill by steps. Have free Drinking water between steps. Keep normal darshan queue. After darshan take pass for annadhanam & enter in queue (I think its free). Return via steps. And catch the return bus by 5pm.

Dear friends, never agree/allow the taxi provider to change the type of vehicle which we booked earlier. And don't book any vehicle 1 month prior to our trip. Taxi provider will not give the best vehicle. If you want a taxi, go to taxi stand & select the vehicle. I booked a decent Chevrolet enjoy LS (8 seater - 3 front facing row) at cloudstreet taxi service kuttikanam. 4 days before my palani trip, owner of taxi service Mr sabir requested me for change the vehicle to Chevrolet tavera. I agreed (without rethink). But the vehicle which came was too old with whole body rattling sound, power window glass not working (ie a/c loss) etc. I was in last (facing seats), bouncing, bumpy, without ac etc. It was better to go by my alto K10.

[Read less](#) ^

Written May 16, 2019



errich

Bengaluru, India • 115 contributions

👍 0 ...



Must see temple in Tamil Nadu

Dec 2018 • Family

The temple is located on the top of the mountain. You need to do a bit of stairs or you can take the cog railway to reach the temple. There will be a huge queue for the railway line as it is a big attraction for lots of visitors.

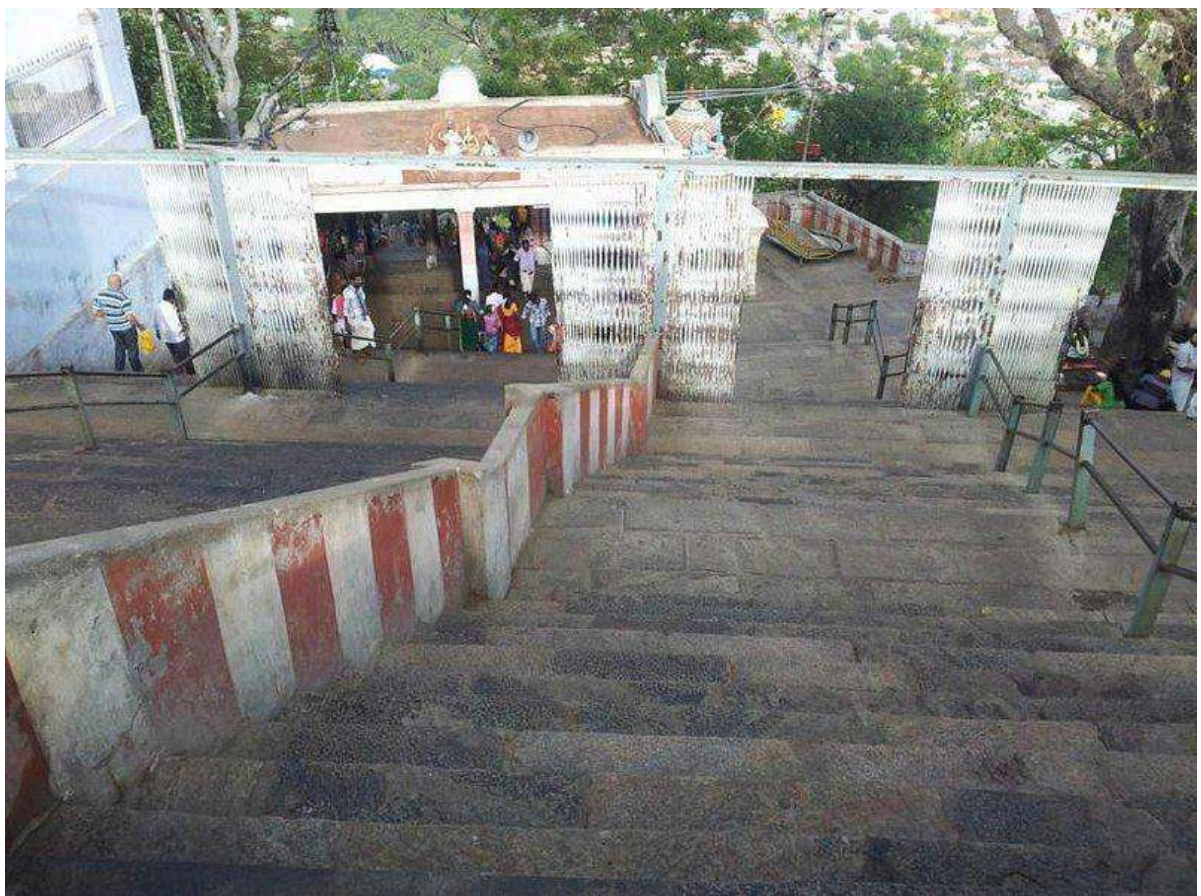
The best time to start is around 4 or 5 in the morning and reach the temple for the puja.

Written May 7, 2019

Photos



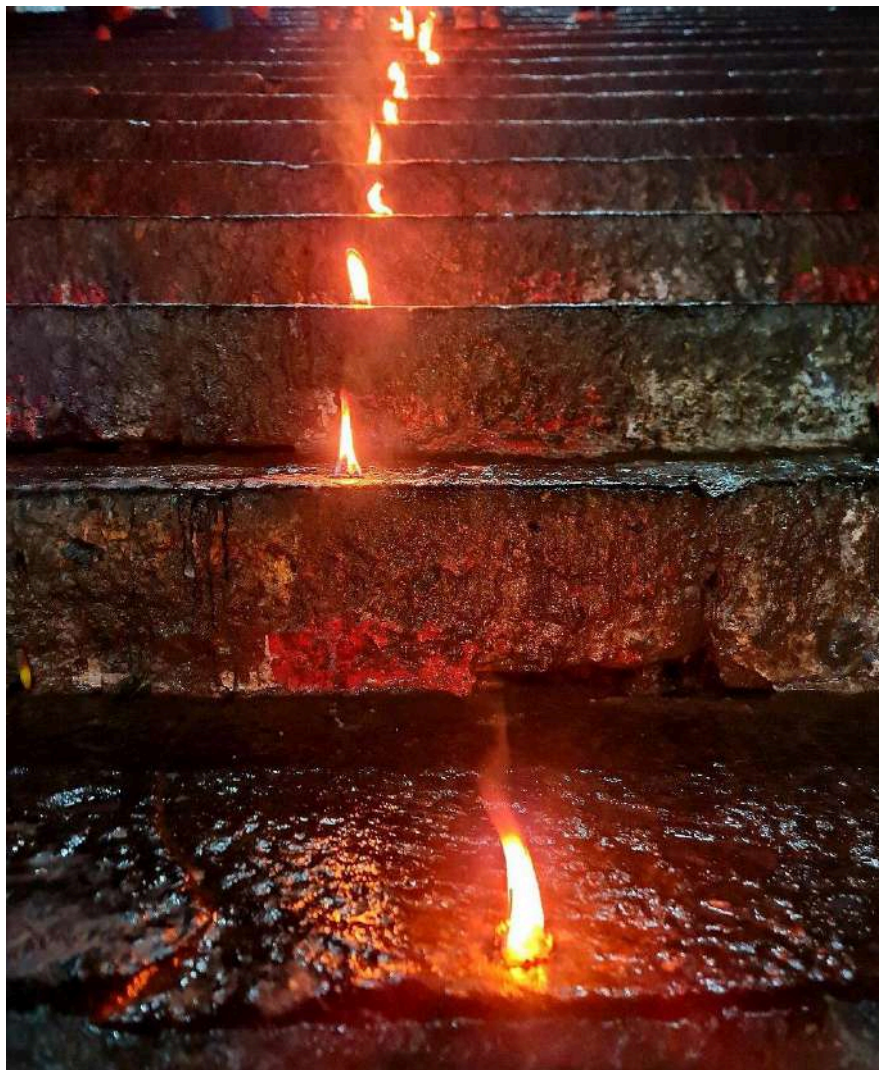
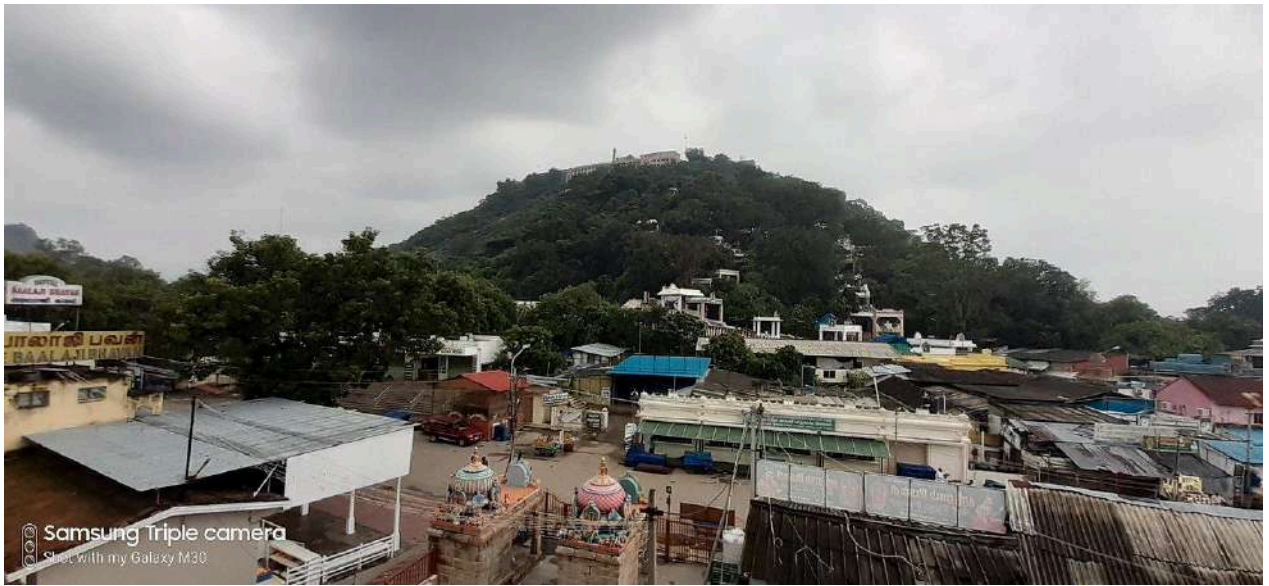






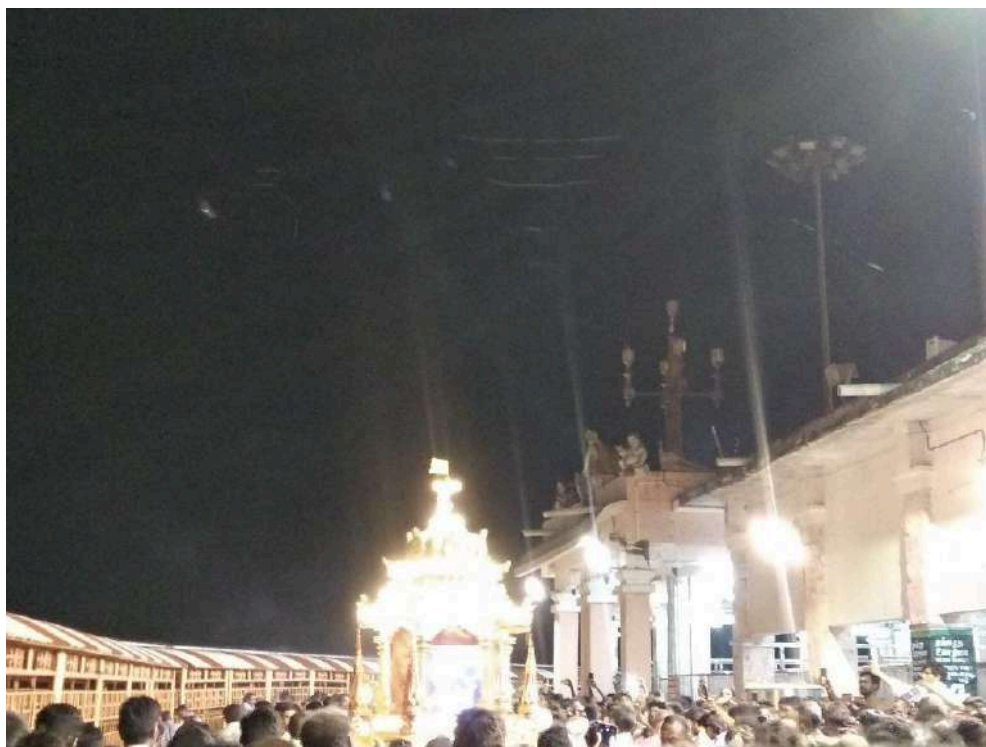










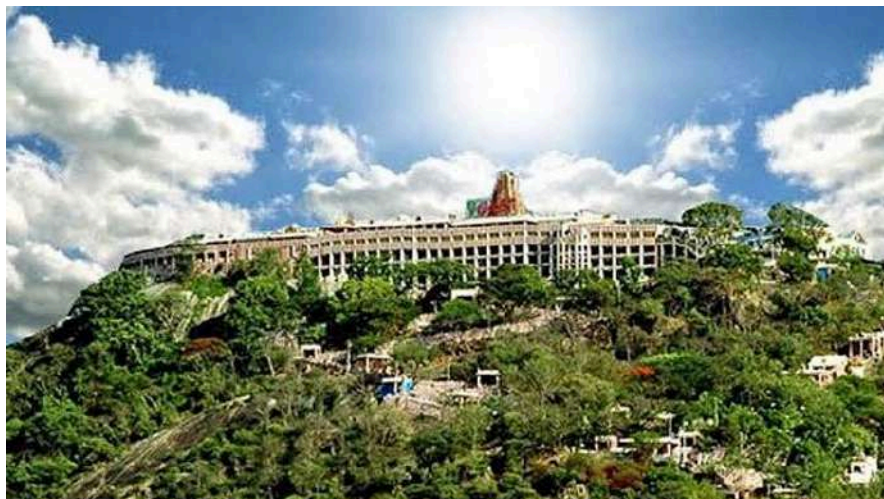






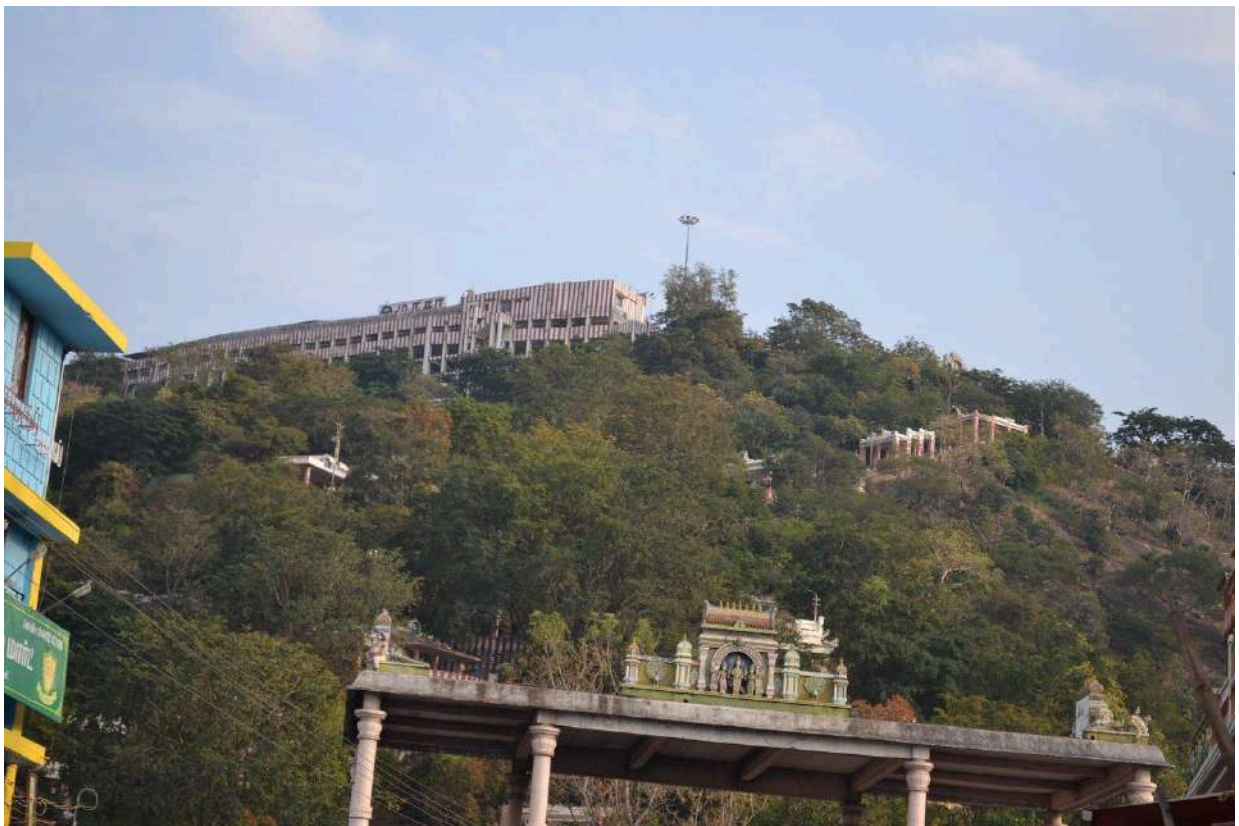










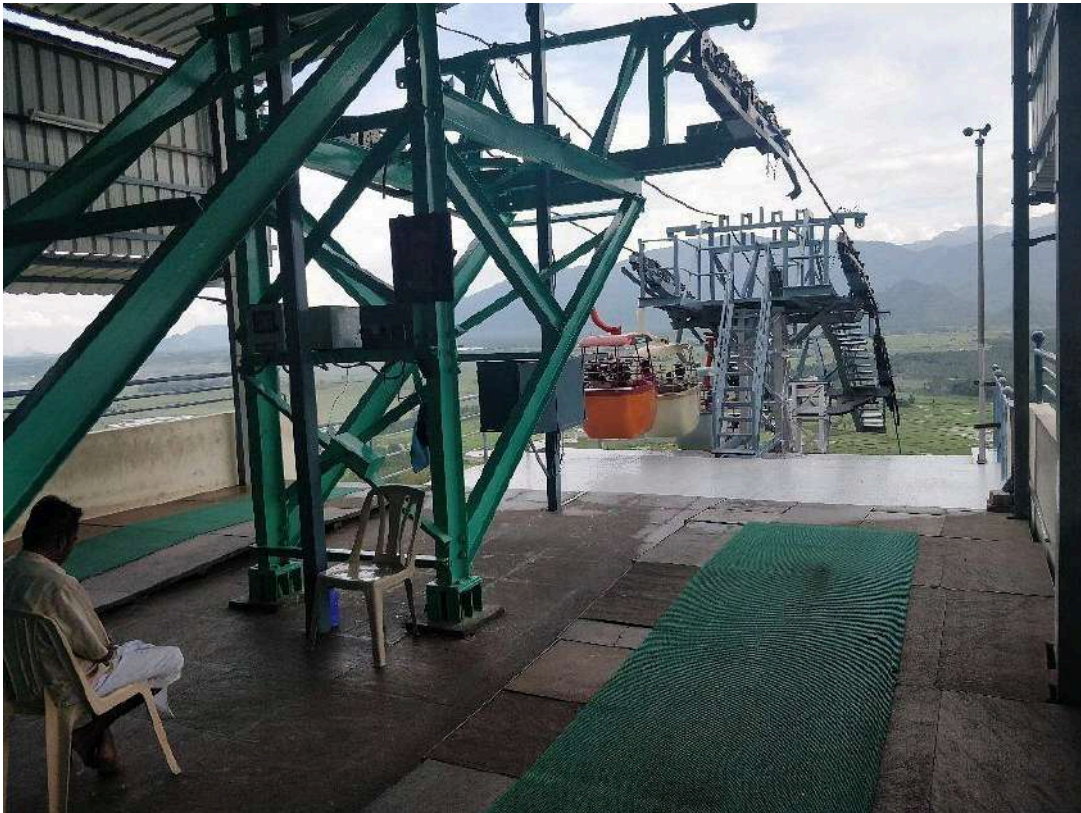


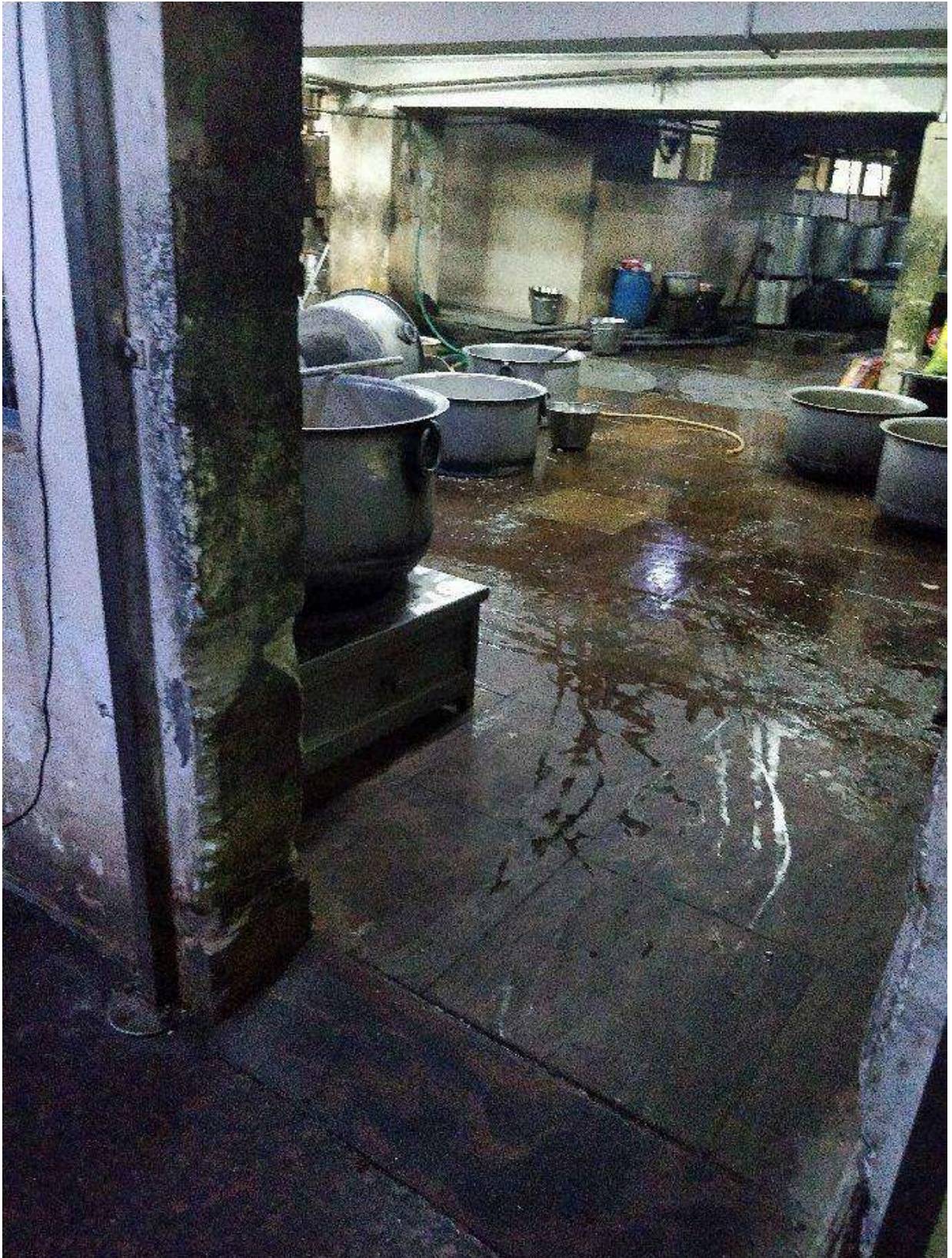
















YouTube Videos

Palani Murugan Temple full tour - vlog (6 min):

https://youtu.be/C-8kmYwA-Ac?si=lcOD4fflEA_-xieh

Palani Murugan- Kanda Sasti festival - November 2024 - Sun News (2 min):

<https://youtu.be/FmDz7cBn9zM?si=GumZBdQ63sXKFSVC>

Palani Subrahmanya Swamy Temple temple - Kannada (20 min):

<https://youtu.be/ch7l6HbTiUo?si=-RN1mGjgVMaHFU7c>

Palani Murugan Abhishekam - shorts:

<https://youtube.com/shorts/pkSu0TtHBMM?si=E32qghVpyJZKCCbW>

Thiruchendur Temple History (30 min):

<https://youtu.be/skJxY9S7pUg?si=cD6iqp9EJ3CExpk4>

Palani Murugan Temple Tour info (15 min):

<https://youtu.be/NA9a1JRSgH0?si=w8Q6EdMlwAUd3qI6>

Palani Murugan Temple Travel guide - Kumbabhishekam (37 min):

https://youtu.be/Ve9FiTB-_Hg?si=kRcOCshsNgk1X9K4

Thaipusam 2023- Festival time -Palani vlog (30 min):

<https://youtu.be/NdHyNopaNEM?si=VqXas3RzFYuABd0n>

Palani Murugan Temple- gptamilvlog (9 min):

<https://youtu.be/z8YIEIDf9wc?si=SVNsJ9DgGvYzFmCe>

Bangalore to Palani full tour details - spiritual tour (24 min):

<https://youtu.be/WxhL0XZ0I5Y?si=xW7q1IUYiRYucoMN>

Palani Winch train - temple hill view (4 min):

<https://youtu.be/kOwkCK0C7pc?si=B7usroasTuaFeXkx>

Sivakarthisayan Palani Temple - January 7, 2024(1 min):

<https://youtu.be/s6F6WBjD2hU?si=3Vd5rOtargSr89Qw>

Palani Subrahmanya Swamy Temple full tour - Telugu (15 min):

<https://youtu.be/zGlluqIgips?si=2U8xRg3Fr0THGuN6>

Complete guide to Palani Dandayuthapani Swamy Temple - Tamil (10 min):

https://youtu.be/JqTHFZD3_5k?si=jSx0aSeQ1Xe4E_p2

Tiruchendur travel by train - guide (24 min):

https://youtu.be/r_t7FwrKt5Q?si=kXYZ8pk41UoW53kk



ॐ स॒ह ना॑ ववतु । स॒ह नौ॑ भुनक्तु । स॒ह वी॒र्यं॑ करवावहै । ते॒ज॒स्विना॒वधी॑तमस्तु मा वि॒द्विषा॑वहै ॥ (3)

ॐ शान्तिः॒ शान्तिः॒ शान्तिः॑ ॥ (3)

Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar

**Arulmigu Swaminatha Swamy Temple, Swamimalai,
Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu, India**



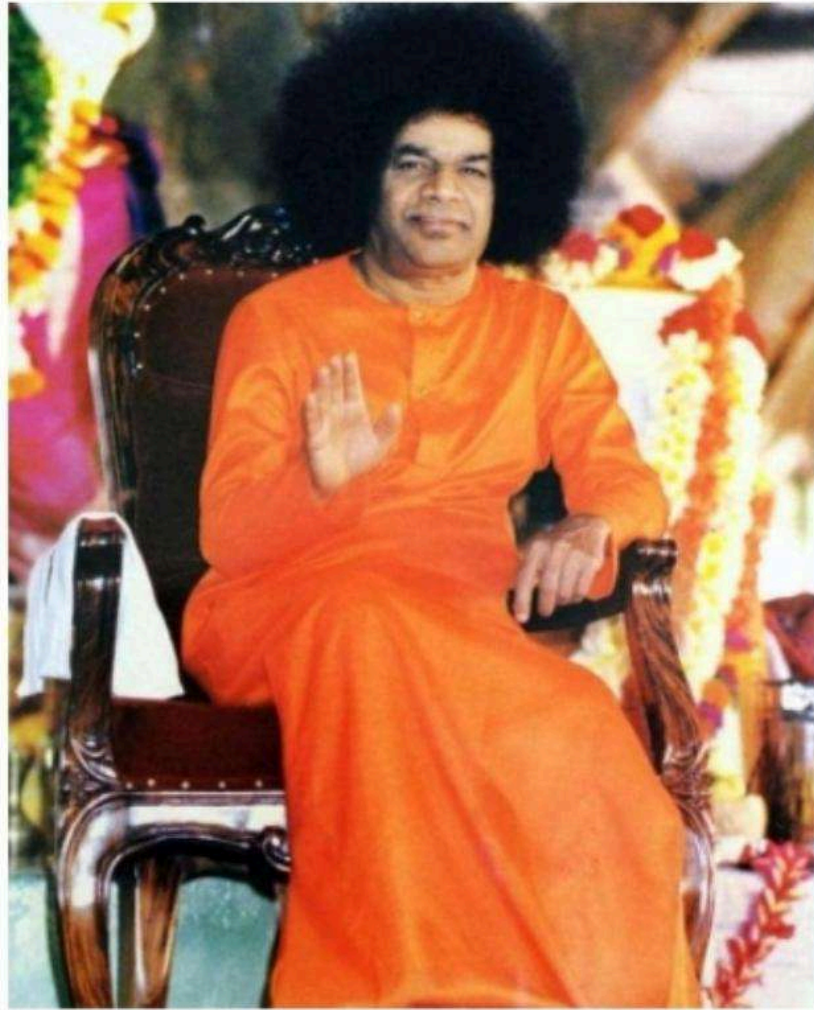
**Compiled by
Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar**

formerly:

- (i) Professor, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering,
St. Joseph Engineering College,
Vamanjoor, Mangalore – 575 028, India
- (ii) Principal, Vivekananda College of Engineering and Technology,
Puttur (D.K.) – 574 203, India
- (iii) Head, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering,
Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues Institute of Technology,
Vashi, Navi Mumbai 400 703, India
- (iv) Senior Scientific Officer and Head,
Cryogenics Section,
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay, Mumbai, India
and
Centre for Advanced Technology, Indore 452013, India

DEDICATION

**This work is lovingly dedicated at the lotus feet of:
Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba**



**There is only ONE caste -The Caste of Humanity
There is only ONE religion –The Religion of Love
There is only ONE language –The Language of the Heart
There is only ONE God –He is Omnipresent**

.....Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba

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PREFACE



This free ebook gives briefly info about: **“Arulmigu Swaminatha Swamy Temple, Swamimalai, Kumbakonam”**

This Temple is a Hindu temple dedicated to god Murugan. It is located in Swamimalai, 5 km from Kumbakonam, in Thanjavur District, 290 km from Chennai, India. The temple is fourth abode of Murugan among six (Arupadaiveedugal).

The annual Vaikasi Visagam festival is attended by thousands of devotees from far and near. As per Hindu legend, Murugan, the son of Shiva, extolled the meaning of the Pranava Mantra (AUM) to his father at this place and hence obtained the name Swaminatha Swamy.

Details of Temple History, legends, festivals, deities, Timings, address, map, phone number and how to reach there, temple speciality, architecture, dress code, FAQs, accommodation and hotels nearby, darshan and Pooja Timings, details of poojas and their cost, contact info, donation info, where to stay, where to eat, similar places, nearby places to visit, comments by visitors,..etc are given.

Many good photos of the temple and related activities like festivals etc are given.

Links to YouTube Videos give videos relating to the temple, its legend and history, festivals, Temple travel vlogs, travel guides, temple tour,..etc

Acknowledgements:

Many of my friends and relatives have actively encouraged me in my attempt to compile this free ebook. I sincerely thank them for their support.

My wife Kala has always encouraged and supported me in all my literary works, sacrificing much of her time. I express my deep appreciation to her.

I have drawn from many references, and YouTube as mentioned in the text.

Finally, I express my immense gratitude to Sri Sathya Sai Baba for His Grace and blessings, prompting me to initiate, continue and complete this work.

Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar,
January 9, 2025
Email: tmuliya@rediffmail.com

Ref: Wikipedia

Swaminatha Swamy Temple



The **Swaminatha Swamy Temple** is a Hindu temple dedicated to god Murugan. It is located in Swamimalai, 5 km from Kumbakonam, on the banks of a tributary of river Kaveri in Thanjavur District, 290 km from Chennai, the capital of Tamil Nadu, India. The temple is fourth abode of Murugan among six (Arupadaiveedugal). The shrine of the presiding deity, Swaminathaswamy is located atop a 60 ft (18 m) hillock and the shrine of his mother Meenakshi (Parvati) and father Shiva (Sundareswarar) is located downhill. The temple has three *gopuram* (gateway towers), three precincts and sixty steps and each one is named after the sixty Tamil years. The temple has six daily rituals at various times from 5:30 a.m. to 9 p.m., and three yearly festivals on its calendar. The annual Vaikasi Visagam festival is attended by thousands of devotees from far and near.

As per Hindu legend, Murugan, the son of Shiva, extolled the meaning of the Pranava Mantra (AUM) to his father at this place and hence attained the name Swaminathaswamy. The temple is believed to be in existence from the Sangam period from 2nd century BC and was believed to have been modified and rebuilt by Parantaka Chola I. The temple was greatly damaged during the Anglo-French war between Hyder Ali and British in 1740. The temple, in modern times, is maintained and administered by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu. The Kandhanathaswamy thirukovil in eraharam is connected to the history of this temple.

Nearby Eraharam Murugan temple

In the village of Eraharam there is a murugan temple known as Kandhanathaswamy thirukovil. This temple is considered to be the adhi temple of Swamimalai

Swaminathaswamy temple. This Kandhanathaswamy temple can be reached from kumbakonam and from thirupurambiyam.

Legend

According to regional Hindu legend, Brahma, the Hindu god of creation, disrespected Murugan at the time of visiting Mount Kailash, the abode of Shiva. The child Murugan got angry with Brahma and asked him how he created living beings. Brahma said that he did so with the help of the Vedas (Hindu scriptures). On hearing the reply, Murugan asked Brahma to recite the texts from Vedas. Brahma started to recite the text, beginning with the holy syllable called the Pranava Mantra (Om). When Murugan asked Brahma to explain the meaning of the mantra, Brahma, who did not expect such a question from the child, could not reply.^[1] Murugan knocked Brahma on his forehead with his clenched fists and punished him with imprisonment. Murugan took up the role of the creator. The devas (celestial deities) were surprised by the absence of Brahma and they requested Vishnu to negotiate with Murugan to release Brahma. Vishnu could not help, and as the last resort, Shiva went to the rescue of Brahma.^[2]

Shiva came to Murugan and asked him to release Brahma from imprisonment. Murugan refused to release him stating Brahma was unaware of the meaning of the mantra Om. Shiva asked Murugan to explain the meaning and the latter did so. Shiva behaved like a student to a teacher, listening with rapt attention from his son, giving Murugan the name "Swaminatha Swami".^[3] The meaning of this name is "The Teacher of Shiva".^[4] Following the legend, the shrine of the son Murugan is atop the hillock, while the father Shiva's shrine is located at the basement.^[5]

As per the Kanda Puranam, once all sages and gods assembled in Kailash to witness the wedding of Shiva with Parvati. It resulted in the tilting of earth towards one direction. Shiva asked the sage Agastya to move towards South to balance the tilt.^[6] Agastya employed a demon by name Ettumba to carry two hills in his shoulders to be placed in the South. The demon carried the hills down south and rested in a place. When he tried to lift one of the hills, it didn't budge and he found a young man standing at the top of the hill not allowing it to be moved. The demon tried to attack the young man, but was smitten. Agastya identified the young man as Kartikeya and asked him to pardon the demon. Kartikeya readily did so and let the hill remain there at Pazhani. It is a practice followed in the modern times where people carry milk in both their shoulders as a devotion to please Kartikeya. The demon carried the other hill to Swamimalai.

Architecture

The temple is located in Swamimalai, a panchayat town located 5 km (3.1 mi) away from Kumbakonam on the Kumbakonam - Tiruvayyaru highway.^[8] In Swamimalai, Murugan is known as "Balamurugan" and "Swaminatha Swami". The temple is built on an artificial hill. In Tamil language, such an artificial hill is called "Kattu Malai". Earlier it was called as "Thiruveragam". The temple has three *gopuram* (gateway towers) and three precincts. Out of the three precincts, one is located in the basement, the second at midway to the top of the hillock and the third on the hillock, around the sanctum of the Swaminathaswamy shrine. There are sixty steps and each one is named after the sixty Tamil years. The first thirty steps lead to the second precinct of the temple. The image of Swaminathaswamy is 6 ft (1.8 m) tall. There are golden armours, golden crowns and a diamond lance for Swaminathaswamy. There is a shrine of Vinayaka (Ganesha) outside the first precinct. The central shrine houses

the granite image of Swaminathaswamy. The first precinct has the images of Dakshinamurthy, Durga, Chandikeswarar and the festival image of Swaminathaswamy. The images of Sundaresawar as *lingam* (Shiva) and Meenakshi (Parvati) are located down hill and the first precinct around their shrines have the images of Dakshinamurti, Durga, Chandeshvara Nayanar, and the Navagrahas. The second precinct and the largest one of the temple houses a marriage hall and the chariot of the temple.^[9] The temple is one of the most visited temples in the district.^{[10][11]} The original animal mount of Murugan is believed to have been an elephant, compared to the peacock which is considered to be the most common mount. The white elephant, is considered a powerful, terror striking animal. The iconography is maintained only in two places, namely, this temple and Tiruttani Murugan Temple.^[12] Unlike other Murugan temples, where peacock is sported axial to the image of the presiding deity, an elephant is seen in front of Murugan in the temple.^[13] The temple is maintained and administered by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Religious importance

Swamimalai is one of the *Arupadaiveedu*, believed to be the six main abodes of Murugan, that mark the different phases of his life.

According to Hindu belief, Swamimalai is where Murugan preached what as called as "Pranava mantra" to his own father, Shiva, at a young age, after arresting Brahma for not answering his question about Pranava Mantram. The teaching capabilities of Murugan is found as one of his identifying features. The cult of Murugan is of pride to the Tamil people who identify six with Murugan connating six directions and six chakras in human anatomy.

Sapthavighraha Moorthis		
Saptha Vighraha moorthis are the seven prime consorts in all Shiva temples located at seven cardinal points around the temple		
Deity	Temple	Location
Shiva	Mahalingaswamy temple	Tiruvidadimarudur
Vinayaka	Vellai Vinayagar Temple	Thiruvanchuzhi
Murugan	Swamimalai Murugan temple	Swamimalai
Nataraja	Natarajar temple	Chidambaram
Durga	Thenupuriswarar Temple	Patteswaram
Dakshinamurti	Apatsahayesvarar Temple	Alangudi
Navagraha	Suryanar Kovil	Suryanar Kovil

According to Hindu legend, Mahalingaswamy at Thiruvidadimarudur is the centre of all Shiva temples in the region and the *Saptavighraha murtis* (seven prime consorts in all Shiva temples) are located at seven cardinal points around the temple, located in various parts of the state.^{[18][19]} The seven deities are Nataraja in Chidambaram Nataraja Temple at Chidambaram, Chandikeswarar temple at Tirucheingalur, Vinayaka in Vellai Vinayagar Temple at Thiruvanchuzhi, Murugan in Swamimalai Murugan Temple at Swamimalai, Bhairava in Sattainathar Temple at Sirkali, Navagraha in Sooriyanar Temple at Suryanar Kovil and Dakshinamoorthy in Apatsahayesvarar Temple, Alangudi at Alangudi, Papanasam taluk.^[19]

Arunagirinathar was a 15th-century Tamil poet born in Tiruvannamalai. He spent his early years as a rioter and seducer of women. After ruining his health, he tried to commit suicide by throwing himself from the northern tower of Annamalaiyar Temple, but was saved by the

grace of Murugan.^[20] He became a staunch devotee and composed Tamil hymns glorifying Murugan, the most notable being *Tiruppukal*.^{[21][22]} Arunagirinathar visited various Murugan temples and on his way back to Tiruvannamalai, visited Swamimalai and sung praises about Swaminathaswamy.

Worship and Religious practices

The temple priests perform the *puja* (rituals) during festivals and on a daily basis. Like other Shiva temples of Tamil Nadu, the priests belong to the Shaiva community, a Brahmin sub-caste. The temple rituals are performed six times a day; Ushathkalam at 5:30 a.m., Kalasanthi at 8:00 a.m., Uchikalam at 10:00 a.m., Sayarakshai at 5:00 p.m., Irandamkalam at 7:00 p.m. and Ardha Jamam at 8:00 p.m. Each ritual comprises four steps: *abhisheka* (sacred bath), *alangaram* (decoration), *naivethanam* (food offering) and *deepa aradanai* (waving of lamps) for Swaminathaswamy. The worship is held amidst music with *nagaswaram* (pipe instrument) and *tavil* (percussion instrument), religious instructions in the Vedas (sacred texts) read by priests and prostration by worshippers in front of the temple mast. There are monthly rituals like *amavasai* (new moon day), *kiruthigai*, *pournami* (full moon day) and *sathurthi*. The major festival of the temple, *Vaikasi Visagam*, is celebrated during the Tamil month of Vaikasi (May -June). As per Hindu legend, the celestial deity Indra worshipped Subramanyaswamy on the day of *visagam* star and gained strength to defeat the demon Arikesa.^[3] Like other Murugan temples, the worship practises include tonsuring in the temple, ablution of the deity with sandal, panchamirtham (a mixture of five ingredients) and milk are performed by devotees. Carrying milk pots (called *palkudam*) and Kavadi are other common forms of worship.^{[9][24]} A few years ago, a popular event called Subramanya Sahasranama, meaning doing archana with 1008 forms of Murugan was celebrated every month. Like in Palani Murugan temple, *Vibhuti Abhishekam*, the ablution of the central deity with ash is performed. The central deity with adorned with diamond Vel every Thursday.^[24] The *kumbabhisekam* of the temple was performed on 9 September 2015.

Kumbakonam Sapta Sthaana Temple

This is one of the Saptha Sthaana Temples of Kumbakonam. During the Mahahaman of 2016 the palanquin festival was held on 7 February 2016.^[26] Following the tirttavari held at Mahamaham tank on 21 April 2016, the palanquin festival of the Sapta Sthaana Temples were held on 23 April 2016.^[27] The festival which started from Kumbesvara Temple at the 7.30 p.m. of 23 April 2016 completed on the morning of 25 April 2016 after going to the following temples.

- Adi Kumbeswarar Temple, Kumbakonam
- Amirthakadeswarar Temple, Sakkottai
- Avudainathar Temple, Darasuram
- Kabartheeswarar Temple
- Kottaiyur Kodeeswarar Temple
- Kailasanathar Temple, Melakaveri
- Swaminatha Swamy Temple

Swamimalai Temple – Tanjore



Swamimalai is a significant and must visit Murugan temple in Tamil Nadu. Built in the 10th century AD, The temple is still famous for its unique architecture, which is a blend of Dravidian and Chalukyan styles. Swamimalai is considered one of the six sacred places of Lord Murugan temple (Arupadaiveedu) in South India. The Swamimalai temple itself follows the traditional Dravidian architectural style of Tamil Nadu. But the legend behind the temple also plays an important role in its architecture. In this legend, Murugan is considered the best in Hindu mythology as he is his father's teacher. Guru's status is always higher. Therefore, Murugan's temple is on top of a hill sixty feet high. To climb the temple, devotees must climb sixty steps, each named after one of the sixty Tamil years in a circle. The temple celebrates important festivals dedicated to Lord Murugan like Thai Poosam, Panguni Uthiram, Maha Shivaratri and the Swaminathaswamy chariot festival.

History of Swamimalai temple

According to Hindu mythology, it is believed that Lord Murugan imparted the essence of the Pranava Mantra (OM) to his father, Lord Shiva, at this sacred site where the temple stands today. This event is known as “Swaminatha Swami’s Upadesa” and is a central theme in the temple’s lore.

Speciality of Swamimalai temple

Swamimalai Murugan Temple has a unique feature. It has a staircase consisting of 60 steps, each representing a Tamil era. This beautiful architecture reflects the belief that climbing the steps could absolve people from sins committed over a period of 60 years.

Temple timings –

5.00 am – 12.00 pm, 4.00 pm – 9.00 pm

Dress code

Ladies are suggested to wear only sarees, chudidhar, and kurtis. For Men Dhotis, shirt are preferred and trousers and short dresses should be avoided.

How to reach Swamimalai temple?

By Air – Trichy airport is the nearest to reach Swamimalai temple covering 100 km.

By Train – Kumbakonam railway station is the nearest to reach Swamimalai temple covering 9 km. Trichy railway station is also the best option to reach the temple which covers 100 km.

By Road - All road ways in Tamil Nadu are well- connected to reach Tanjore through NH 36, NH45C, NH83, NH38, and NH67

FAQ

1. What does “OM” mean?

It means the original Vibration of the Universe that could be manifested by the other Vibrations.

2. What is the first abode of lord Murugan?

Thiruparankundram in Madurai is the first abode of lord Murugan

3. Why is Lord Murugan called Tamizh Kadavul?

Murugan fought the Asuras and helped the Tamil poet gain their freedom. Therefore, Tamil kings like Pallavas and Cholas praised him as the "God of the Tamils" for being the savior of the Tamil language.

4. Famous temple near Swami Malai Murugan temple?

Vellai Pilayar Kovil, Thiruvalanchuzhi, katyayani temple are the famous temple near Swami Malai Murugan temple

5. Is there any Darshan fee in Swamimalai Murugan temple?

Yes, the temple charges Rs, 50 for visitors who need a special darshan.

Swami Malai Temple

Overview

Located in Thanjavur, the Swami Malai temple has great religious significance in the Hindu community of south India. It is one of the Arupadaiveedu, the six main abodes of Murugan, each of which marks the six different phases of his life. The temple stands on the ground where Lord Murugan is believed to have passed on profound knowledge of the universe to his own father Lord Shiva as his Guru. Thus, this particular temple is a commemoration of that.

Significance of the Temple

Another point of significance is that the temple is one of the seven Saptha Vighraha Moorthis. According to Hindu myth, the Mahalingaswamy Shiva Temple is the centre of all the Shaivite temples in the region, and it has seven prime consort temples, dedicated to seven gods, located at seven cardinal points from the temple location, spread all across the state of Tamil Nadu. The Swami Malai Temple is one of them, belonging to Karthikeya or Murugan or Subramanya - whichever name you prefer to call him. The temple celebrates all the important festivals related to Murugan as well. One unique thing about the Swami Malai temple is that the shrine of Lord Murugan stands above all the rest, even his parents Shiv and Parvati. The Lingam and the Parvati temple lie at the base of the hillock, while the sanctum of Murugan is at the peak. It is an important place of pilgrimage for the devotees of Murugan.

Legend of Swami Malai Temple

There are many myths and legends about the origin of the land and the Swami Malai temple. The most prominent one is about Lord Murugan enlightening his father, Lord Shiva about the inherent meaning of the Pranava Mantra OM, which lies at the core of the cosmos, as his teacher. There are two stories behind this event which the locals believe.

One legend talks about the time when Lord Shiva forgot all his knowledge because of a curse from Sage Bhrigu and Shiva interrupted his penance. Losing all that he knew, he came to his son Murugan in search of the foundation of all knowledge, the Pranava Mantra. Another one is when Lord Murugan became angry with the creator Brahma for not knowing the true meaning of 'OM'. Furious, Lord Murugan imprisoned Brahma. Owing to the requests of the other gods, Lord Shiva came to Murugan to free the creator of the universe. When Shiva heard why his son had decided to keep Brahma captivated, he asked if he knew the meaning.

In both cases, Lord Murugan imparted the knowledge of OM to Shiva, but the latter had to listen to it, becoming the student of the former and accepting his son as his guru or teacher. The incident took place atop the hillock where the shrine of Murugan lies. Shiva gave his son the title of Swaminatha Swami, meaning 'the teacher of Shiva' and thus the temple got its name.

Architecture

The Swamimalai temple itself follows the traditional Dravidian architecture of Tamil Nadu. However, the legends behind the temple play a role in its architecture as well. Since Murugan was the teacher of his father in this legend, he is held superior because guru's place is always above in Hindu mythology. That is why the sanctum of Murugan here is perched at the peak of a sixty feet high hilltop. To climb up to the sanctum, devotees have to transcend sixty steps, each one named after one of the sixty Tamil years in one cycle.

The temple has three Praharams or Prahars, which is unique to this temple. The first of these three precincts is located at the very base of the hill. Pertaining to the legend, this is where the shrine of Sundareswarar, the Shiva lingam, and his consort Meenakshi or Shakti is present. Surrounding their shrines, there are more deities who are worshipped like Dakshinamoorthy, Chandikeshwara and Durga. The second Prahara is up along the hill, where the marriage hall and the temple chariot is housed. The third and the last level is the shrine with the sanctum sanctorum of Swaminatha Swami. He is represented by a granite idol image, standing 6 feet tall with golden armours, golden crowns and a diamond lance.

The temple has altogether three Gopurams or gateway towers. However, only the RajaGopuram before the first Praharam has a tower of five storeys and colourful stucco figures. The other two are much plainer in comparison. Between the first precinct and the second, there is a small area with beautiful statues that depicts the legend associated with the temple.

Temple Festivals

The Swami Malai temple celebrates many festivals, most of which are related to Murugan or Lord Shiva. Monthly Karthigai festival takes place in the month of Aadi, and marks the victory of good over evil when Murugan defeated and slew the demon Surapadma. The Thaipusam festival is common in all the Murugan temples. It is a ceremonial sacrifice called Kavadi Attam for Murugan to implore help from him. The Panguni Uthiram festival in March is the celebration of the marriages between Shiva and Parvati, Murugan and Deivanai and Kothai and Rangamannar. It is a celebration of holy unions.

Navaratri is a mandatory festival that is celebrated across all temples of south India, and this temple is no exception. Other than these, the Visakam festival on Vaikasi Pournami is also celebrated largely. Thiru Karthikai in November worships the six celestial stars which bore the six babies which were joined to form Karthikeya, thus celebrating the sacred birth of the Lord Murugan. Skanda Shashti, marking the annihilation of demon Tarka in the hands of Murugan, is also celebrated in October every year.

How To Reach

The nearest long-distance bus stand to the temple in Kumbakonam Bus Stand around 8 kilometres away, which is a very popular one. You can get public transport for Kumbakanam from other parts of Tamil Nadu, Thanjavur itself is quite a busy town. So reaching the temple will not be a problem, either by bus or by a cab or car.

Similar Places



Brihadeeswara Temple



Alangudi Guru Temple



Thanjai Mamani Koil



Shri Mariamman Kovil
Punnainallur



Bangaru Kamakshi
Amman Temple



Chandra Bagwan
Temple



Saraswathi Mahal
Library



Vijayanagar Fort

Nearby Places



Alangudi Guru Temple



Chandra Bagwan
Temple



Saraswathi Mahal
Library



Shiva Ganga Garden



Shri Mariamman Kovil
Punnainallur



Vijayanagar Fort



Royal Palace Museum



Thanjai Mamani Koil

Top Hotels nearby



RAMANA'S HOME STAY
Apartment Hotel...

7 kms

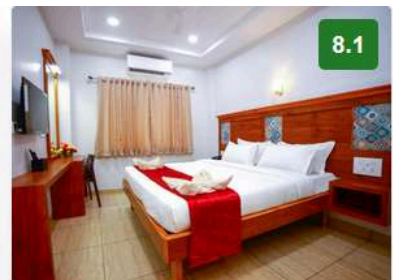
₹ 2,200 onwards



GReaT Trails Riverview
Thanjavur By GRT Hotels...

28 kms

₹ 6,999 onwards



ABI'S RESIDENCY

★ ★

28 kms

₹ 2,499 onwards

Ref: tripnetra.com

Swamimalai Swaminathaswamy Temple

Swamimalai Temple History

Swamimalai Swaminathaswamy Temple dedicated to Lord Murugan. The Swamimalai temple is one of the famous temples of Tamil Nadu. The Lord is offered with regular prayers, Pooja, and aarti. Devotees can reach the temple easily and get the blessings of Lord Murugan.

Swamimalai Temple Address

Swamimalai, Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu 612302

Swamimalai Murugan Temple Timings

Morning: 6.00 am to 12.00 pm

Evening: 4.00 pm to 10.00 pm

Swamimalai Temple Pooja Timings

Pooja	Timings
Usha Kalam	6.00 am
Kalasandhi	9.00 am
Uchikala Pooja	12.00 Noon
Sayaratchai	5.30 pm
Rendam Kalam	10.00 pm

Temple Festivals

- Kirutikal Festival Adi
- Car Festival April
- Visakam Festival May
- Navaratri May
- Kanda Shashti October
- Thiru Karthikai November/ December
- Thaipusam January
- Pankuni Uttiram March

Pooja Details

Pooja	Price	Purpose
Satrusamhara Thirusadai	Rs 1000/-	for a Family Removes Enemies
Sahasra Namam	Rs 1500/-	for a Family There Will Be Never Any Shortage Of The Basic Needs In Life
Padi Pooja	Rs 4000/-	for a Family Prayers offered to 18 hill deities who guards Lord Ayyappa.
Ayush Homam	Rs 7000/-	For a Family For Long Life
Navagraha Homam	Rs 5000/-	For a Family To Gain blessings from the 9 celestial bodies
Special Abhishekam For Murugan	Rs 3000/-	For a Family To Overcome Business Failure
Shubamangala Deepa Pooja	Rs 3000/-	For a Person For Marriage Issues(Recovered within 48 Days)
Rudtabhishekam	Rs 15000/-	For a Family For Marriage

Offerings & Worship Details:

Item	Price
Archana	Rs 5/-
Kavadi Chindu	Rs 50/-
Tonsure	Rs 10/-
Kalayana Kanekai	Rs 300/-
Abhishekam	Rs 1500/-
Special Entrance	Rs 50/-
Tanga Radham Swami Purapadu	Rs 1201/-
Metal Kanekai	Rs 10/-
Ear Boring	Rs 50/-

Services:

Annadhanam – Rs 2000/- Per Donor

Accommodation:

Room Type	Room Cost
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Non- AC Rooms	Rs 500/-
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AC Rooms	Rs 1000/-
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How To Reach?

By Air:

Tiruchirapalli International Airport (nearest) – 85 km

By Train:

Kumbakonam Railway Station (nearest) – 8.5 km

By Road:

Regular Buses, Cabs & Other Private vehicles are easily available for Hire

Ref: divinetraveller.net

Swaminatha swamy - Swamimalai



Swamimalai Murugan Temple is located in Swamimalai, 7 km from Kumbakonam on the banks of a tributary of river Cauvery. It is one of the six "aru padai veedu" (six abodes of Lord Muruga) .

As per mythology , sage Bhrugu before commencing a very difficult penance, got a boon that anyone disturbing his meditation will forget all his knowledge. Such was the power of the penance that the heat from the penance reached Heaven, and the frightened devas surrendered to Lord Shiva to save them. The Lord came down to Bhrugu and he woke up from the penance and, as per Bhrughu's boon whoever disturbs him will lose his knowledge, Lord Shiva lost his knowledge. Bhrughu got very upset saying he became the cause for Siva to lose his knowledge. Lord Siva pacified him saying that he will regain all these soon by his son.



Thanthaikku Upadesam

Meanwhile, once when Brahma was proceeding to Kailash, child Lord Muruga asked him for the meaning of the Pranava mantra 'AuM'. When Brahma blinked and could not answer correctly, Muruga imprisoned him. With Brahma in a prison, all creations came to a standstill and the devas prayed to Lord Shiva to get Brahma released. Siva came to Muruga and ordered him to release Brahma from imprisonment. Muruga refused and said that the imprisonment was a punishment for the ignorance of Brahma for not knowing the meaning of Pranava mantra being a creator. Lord Siva asked him whether Muruga knew the meaning of the Pranava mantra AuM. Lord Muruga said that he knew the meaning and can offer it to the Siva only if he can accept him as a guru and listen to the explanation as a devoted disciple. Lord Siva acceded to the request of Lord Muruga and heard the exposition of AuM as a disciple, the place came to be known as Swamimalai and the presiding deity as Swaminathan.



Temple Entrance

The temple is built on man made hillock of about sixty feet height with sixty stone steps leading to the temple. Each step represents the Hindu cycle of sixty years.

Hymns in praise of Muruga have been sung by saint Nakkeerar in Thirumurugatrupadai and by Saint Arunagirinathar in Thiruppugazh.

The temple is said to have been in existence from the 2nd century BC. The temple was believed to have been built by Parantaka Chola I. The temple has three gopurams and three praharams. Out of the three praharams, one is at the foothill, the second midway to the top of the hillock and the third around the sanctum of the Swaminathaswamy shrine.

In the first praharam we can see the shrines Dakshinamurthy, Durga, Chandikeswarar and the utsavar of Swaminathaswamy. The second praharam is large and has a marriage hall and the chariot of the temple. Many marriages take place in this hall and people come all over the state to get married here.

As you climb the sixty steps, you enter the main sanctum of the temple. You can see the Iravatham (Indra's white elephant) in front of Lord Muruga. It is an unique feature as all other Murugan temples have Peacock in front of the Lord. The idol of Swaminathaswamy

stands majestically at 6 ft with golden lance studded with diamonds in his right hand (usually on special occasions) and other hand on his hips.

Like other Murugan temples, the Lord here is anointed with sandal paste and panchamirtham (milk,honey,banana,ghee and jaggery- five compounds) as abhishekams at specific pooja times.



60 steps leading to the temple



The Entrance to Sanctum



Gold Dwajasthambam

Rituals

Devotees offer their hair (it is very popular in Tirupati Balaji temple, and other Murugan temples in the South) as a sacrifice after their prayers have been answered.

The temple has a golden chariot made of seven kilos of gold, 85 kilos of silver and other metals. Devotees on payment of stipulated fees can take the deity in a procession in the golden chariot around the outer corridor.

Another important ritual is carrying of palkudams (milk pots) and Kavadi by the devotees in huge numbers.

Festivals

Daily pujas to the deities are performed six times a day.

Monthly Karthigai festival, Visakam festival in May, Navarathri festival in May, the important Skanda Sashti festival during October, Thiru Karthigai in Nov/December, Thai poosam in January and Pankuni Uttiram in festival are celebrated in a very grand scale. Unprecedented crowds throng the temple during these festival days. During marriage muhurat days, the temple corridor overflows with people, it is very difficult to enter into the temple. Parking of your car is a real nightmare during these days.

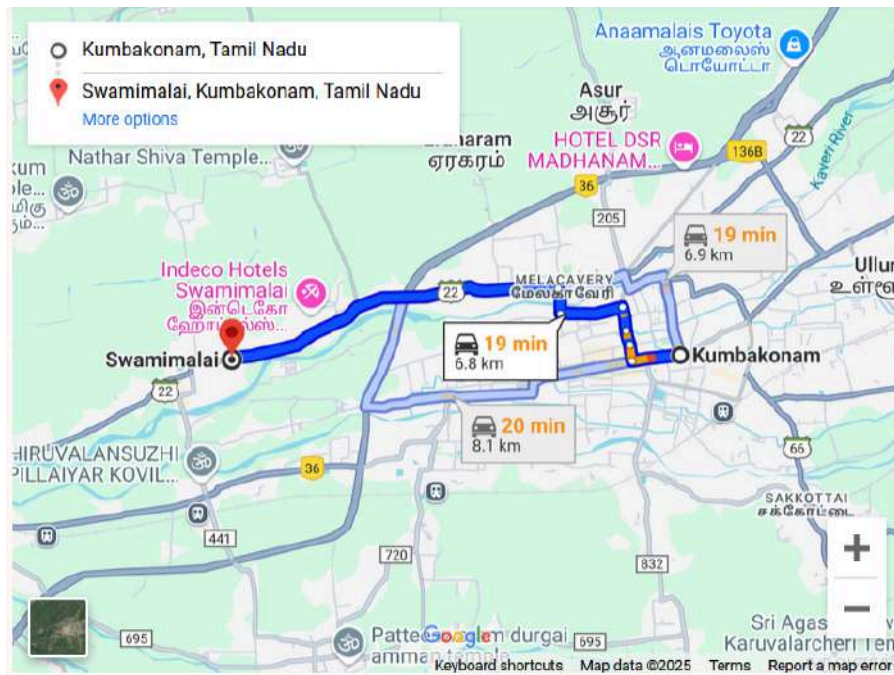
Temple Timings

It is normally open from 5 am – 12:00 pm and 4.30pm- 8:00 pm.

How to reach?

The temple is located 7 Kms from Kumbakonam. Plenty of local buses, cabs and auto rickshaws are available from Kumbakonam.

Map



Where to Stay?

There are plenty of budget and semi deluxe hotels in Kumbakonam. If you are not staying at Kumbakonam and are travelling only to Swamimalai, there are rooms and cottages constructed and are let out at nominal rent ranging from Rs. 20/- to Rs. 100/- per day by the temple Devasthanam.

Where to Eat?

There are many good restaurants in Kumbakonam

Places nearby

Kumbakonam is a place with many famous temples. Oppiliappan temple, Patteeswaram Durgai, Darsuram, Thirubhuvanam are very nearby.

Contact

Assistant Commissioner / Executive Officer
Arulmigu Swaminatha Swami Temple
Swamimalai - 612 302
Thanjavur district Tamil Nadu, India
Phone: (+91) 435 245-4421

Useful data

State: Tamil Nadu

District: Kumbakonam

Famous for: Pilgrimage

Languages: English, Tamil

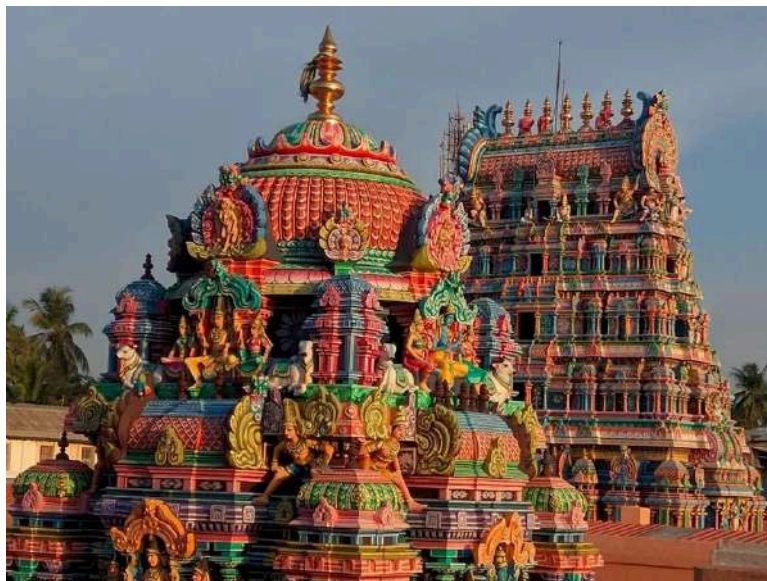
Best Season: Throughout the year. Summer(from May to July) could be very hot and dry when the mercury shoots to 40 degree celsius.

Weather: Summer 33-42°C, Winter 16-28°C

Altitude: Sea level

Ref: tripoto.com

Swaminathaswamy Temple, Swamimalai: The Abode of the Teacher of Shiva



Have you ever wondered where Lord Murugan, the son of Shiva and Parvati, taught the meaning of the sacred syllable OM to his father? The answer is **Swaminathaswamy Temple**, Swamimalai, one of the six abodes of Murugan, and one of the most revered and visited temples of Murugan in India. In this article, we will explore the legend, the history, the architecture, and the festivals of this temple, and learn why it is a must-visit destination for anyone who loves culture, spirituality, and beauty.

Legend of Swaminathaswamy Temple

The legend of Swaminathaswamy Temple is one of the most fascinating and profound stories in Hindu mythology. It is said that once, Lord Brahma, the creator of the universe,

was on his way to Mount Kailash, the abode of Shiva, when he encountered Murugan, who was a young boy at that time. Murugan asked Brahma to explain the meaning of the Pranava Mantra, the sacred syllable OM, which is the source and the essence of all creation. Brahma, who was arrogant and ignorant, could not answer the question, and tried to evade it by saying that he did not need to know the meaning, as he was the creator himself. Murugan, who was displeased by Brahma's attitude, imprisoned him in a cave, and took over his role of creation.

When the gods and the sages realized that Brahma was missing, they approached Shiva, and requested him to intervene. Shiva came to Murugan, and asked him to release Brahma. Murugan agreed, but on one condition: Shiva had to explain the meaning of the Pranava Mantra. Shiva, who was curious and humble, agreed to learn from his son, and asked him to teach him. Murugan then took Shiva to the top of a hill, and taught him the meaning of **OM**, which is the sound of the supreme reality, the manifestation of the three aspects of **Shiva: creation, preservation, and destruction, and the representation of the three states of consciousness: waking, dreaming, and deep sleep**. Shiva was amazed and delighted by his son's wisdom, and praised him as Swaminathaswamy, the teacher of Shiva.

The hill where Murugan taught Shiva is known as Swamimalai, and the temple where Murugan is worshipped as Swaminathaswamy is the Swaminathaswamy Temple. The temple is also known as the Pranava Mantra Temple, as it is the place where the Pranava Mantra was revealed. The Pranava Mantra is the most sacred and powerful mantra in Hinduism, and it is chanted before and after every prayer, meditation, and ritual. It is believed that by chanting OM, one can connect with the supreme reality, and attain peace, bliss, and liberation.

There are other versions or variations of this legend, such as the legend of Murugan and Brahma, and the legend of Shiva and Brigu, which are also related to the temple. According to the legend of Murugan and Brahma, Murugan asked Brahma to recite the four Vedas, the ancient scriptures of Hinduism, and when Brahma started with the Rig Veda, Murugan asked him to explain the meaning of the first letter, A. Brahma could not answer, and Murugan imprisoned him for his ignorance. According to the legend of Shiva and Brigu, Brigu was a sage who had the power to curse anyone who did not respect him. He visited the three supreme gods, Brahma, Vishnu, and Shiva, and tested their patience and humility. When he came to Shiva, he found him in deep meditation, and ignored him. Brigu became angry, and cursed Shiva to lose his power and glory. Shiva, who was aware of Brigu's curse, placed his trident on Brigu's head, and stopped his curse from taking effect. He also appeased Brigu's penance, and blessed him with knowledge and wisdom.

History of Swaminathaswamy Temple

The history of Swaminathaswamy Temple is as old as the legend itself. The temple is believed to have been built in the **2nd century BC**, by the early Chola kings, who were ardent devotees of Murugan. The temple is mentioned in the Sangam literature, the ancient Tamil literature, as one of the six abodes of Murugan, known as the Arupadaiveedu. The

temple is also mentioned in the Skanda Purana, the ancient Hindu scripture, as one of the 108 holy places of Shiva, known as the Shiva Sthalams.

The temple has been renovated and expanded by various kings and dynasties over the centuries, such as the Pallavas, the Pandyas, the Vijayanagaras, and the Nayakas. The temple has also witnessed the invasion and the destruction by the foreign forces, such as the Portuguese, the Dutch, the French, and the British, who looted and damaged the temple during the Anglo-French war in the 18th century. The temple was restored and repaired by the government and the devotees, who contributed generously to the temple fund. The temple is now under the administration of the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

The temple has many inscriptions and sculptures that attest to its antiquity and glory. The inscriptions record the donations and the grants made by the kings and the nobles to the temple, as well as the names and the titles of the temple priests and the officials. The sculptures depict the scenes and the stories from the legends and the mythology, such as the teaching of the Pranava Mantra, the imprisonment of Brahma, the curse of Brigu, and the festivals of Murugan. The temple also has a museum, which displays the ancient artifacts and the relics found in and around the temple, such as the coins, the weapons, the utensils, and the idols.

Architecture of Swaminathaswamy Temple

The architecture of Swaminathaswamy Temple is a marvel of art and engineering. The temple has **three gopurams**, or towered gateways, which are adorned with intricate carvings and colorful paintings of the gods and the goddesses. The temple has three precincts, or courtyards, which are surrounded by walls and pillars. The temple has sixty steps, which lead to the main shrine of Swaminathaswamy, which is located on the top of the hill. The temple also has the shrines of Shiva and Parvati, who are worshipped as Sundareswarar and Meenakshi, at the base of the hill.

The **sixty steps of the temple** are one of the most unique and significant features of the temple. The sixty steps represent the sixty Tamil years, which are based on the solar calendar, and have names such as Prabhava, Vibhava, Shukla, etc. Each step has an inscription of the name and the symbol of the corresponding year. The devotees climb the steps with devotion and reverence, and perform rituals and offerings on each step. The devotees also believe that by climbing the steps, they can overcome the effects of the past karma, and attain the blessings of Murugan.

The main shrine of Swaminathaswamy is the sanctum sanctorum of the temple, where Murugan is worshipped as the teacher of Shiva. The idol of Murugan is made of nine metals, known as the Navapashanam, and is adorned with jewels and garlands. The idol has six faces and twelve arms, and holds various weapons and symbols, such as the spear, the bow, the arrow, the discus, the conch, the rosary, etc. The idol is also accompanied by his

consorts, Valli and Devasena, and his vehicle, the peacock. The idol is believed to have miraculous powers, and can cure diseases and grant wishes. The devotees offer prayers and praises to the idol, and receive the holy water and the sacred ash as the prasadam, or the divine gift.

Festivals of Swaminathaswamy Temple

The festivals of Swaminathaswamy Temple are the occasions of joy and celebration for the devotees of Murugan. The temple celebrates various festivals throughout the year, which are based on the lunar calendar, and coincide with the phases of the moon, the seasons, and the stars. The festivals are marked by special rituals and ceremonies, such as the abhishekam, the alankaram, the archanai, the aarti, the homam, the kavadi, the palanquin, etc. The festivals also involve the processions and the chariot rides of the idol of Murugan, which are accompanied by music, dance, and fireworks. The festivals attract thousands of pilgrims and tourists from all over the world, who come to witness the grandeur and the splendor of the temple.

The major festivals celebrated at the temple are as follows:

Vaikasi Visakam: This is the birthday of Murugan, which falls in the month of Vaikasi (May-June), on the full moon day, when the star Visakam is in ascendance. This is the most important and the most auspicious festival of the temple, which lasts for ten days. The idol of Murugan is decorated with jewels and flowers, and taken in a procession around the temple. The devotees offer milk, honey, fruits, and sweets to the idol, and chant the names and the mantras of Murugan. The temple also performs special rituals and ceremonies, such as the abhishekam, the alankaram, the archanai, the aarti, and the homam, to honor and worship Murugan. The festival culminates on the tenth day, when the idol of Murugan is taken to the river Cauvery, and given a holy bath. The devotees also take a dip in the river, and seek the blessings of Murugan.

Skanda Sashti: This is the victory of Murugan over the demon Surapadma, which falls in the month of Aippasi (October-November), on the sixth day after the new moon. This is the second most important festival of the temple, which lasts for six days. The idol of Murugan is taken in a procession to the banks of the river Cauvery, where he battles with the demon, who takes the form of a mango tree, a peacock, and a rooster. On the final day, Murugan slays the demon with his spear, and liberates the gods and the sages from his tyranny. The devotees celebrate the victory of Murugan by breaking coconuts, offering kavadi, and piercing their body parts with hooks and needles.

Panguni Uthiram: This is the wedding anniversary of Murugan and his consorts, Valli and Devasena, which falls in the month of Panguni (March-April), on the full moon day, when the star Uthiram is in ascendance. This is the third most important festival of the temple, which lasts for ten days. The idols of Murugan, Valli, and Devasena are decorated with bridal attire and jewels, and taken in a procession around the temple. On the final day, the idols are

taken to a specially erected mandapam, or pavilion, where the wedding ceremony is performed by the priests, with the devotees as the witnesses. The devotees offer flowers, fruits, and sweets to the divine couple, and seek their blessings for a happy and prosperous married life.

Karthigai: This is the monthly festival of Murugan, which falls in the month of Karthigai (November-December), on the full moon day, when the star Karthigai is in ascendance. This is also the day when Murugan was born from the sparks of Shiva's third eye. The temple is illuminated with thousands of lamps and candles, and the idol of Murugan is taken in a procession around the temple. The devotees light lamps and candles in their homes and temples, and offer milk and honey to Murugan.

Pradosham: This is the weekly festival of Shiva, which falls on the thirteenth day of every lunar fortnight, either on a Monday, Wednesday, or Saturday. The temple celebrates Pradosham with special rituals and offerings to Shiva and Parvati, who are worshipped as Sundareswarar and Meenakshi. The idols of Shiva and Parvati are taken in a procession around the temple, and the devotees chant the names and the mantras of Shiva and Parvati.

Pooja: This is the daily festival of the temple, which involves the worship and the service of the idols of Murugan, Valli, Devasena, Shiva, and Parvati. The temple performs six poojas every day, which are known as the Ushatkalam, the Kalasanthi, the Uchikalam, the Sayarakshai, the Irandamkalam, and the Ardha Jamam. The poojas include the bathing, the dressing, the adorning, the feeding, and the singing of the idols, and the distribution of the prasadam to the devotees. The poojas are performed by the priests, who follow the Agama Shastra, the ancient scripture of temple worship.

The festivals and events of Swaminathaswamy Temple are the expressions of the devotion and the gratitude of the devotees to Murugan, who is the embodiment of wisdom, courage, and love. The devotees participate in the festivals and events with enthusiasm and faith, and experience the joy and the grace of Murugan. The festivals and events also showcase the rich and diverse culture and heritage of Tamil Nadu, and the beauty and the elegance of the temple.



Travel Guide to Swaminathaswamy Temple

If you are planning to visit Swaminathaswamy Temple, Swamimalai, here are some useful tips and information that will help you make the most of your trip.

Best Time To Visit:

The best time to visit the temple is between October and March, when the weather is pleasant and the festivals are celebrated. You can witness the grandeur and the splendor of the temple during the festivals of Vaikasi Visakam, Skanda Sashti, and Panguni Uthiram, and participate in the rituals and the ceremonies. You can also enjoy the scenic beauty and the cultural diversity of the region during this time.

How To Reach:

The temple is easily accessible by various modes of transport, such as by air, by rail, by road, and by waterways. The nearest airport is the Tiruchirappalli International Airport, which is about 90 km away from the temple. The nearest railway station is the Kumbakonam Railway Station, which is about 6 km away from the temple. The nearest bus stand is the Kumbakonam Bus Stand, which is about 5 km away from the temple. You can also reach the temple by boat, as the temple is located on the banks of the river Cauvery, which is connected to the Bay of Bengal by a network of canals and rivers.

Local Transport

Once you reach Kumbakonam, you can choose from various local transport options to reach the temple, such as buses, taxis, autos, and cycle rickshaws. The fares and the availability of these transport options may vary depending on the time and the season. You can also hire a car or a bike to explore the town and the nearby attractions at your own pace and convenience.

Accommodation and Food near the temple:

There are plenty of accommodation and food options near the temple, ranging from budget to luxury. You can find hotels, guest houses, lodges, and homestays that offer comfortable and affordable stay near the temple. You can also find restaurants, eateries, and street food stalls that serve delicious and authentic Tamil cuisine, as well as other cuisines, near the temple. Some of the popular dishes that you can try are the idli, dosa, vada, pongal, sambar, rasam, kootu, kuzhambu, appam, payasam, etc.

Other Attractions and Places of Interest nearby:

Apart from the temple, there are many other attractions and places of interest that you can visit near Swamimalai, such as the Mahamaham Tank, the Airavatesvara Temple, the Shopping in Kumbakonam, and the other temples of Murugan in the Arupadaiveedu circuit. The Mahamaham Tank is a sacred tank, where a grand festival is held once in 12 years, and millions of pilgrims take a holy dip in the water. The Airavatesvara Temple is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, which is dedicated to Shiva, and is known for its exquisite architecture and sculptures. The Shopping in Kumbakonam is a delight for the shoppers, who can buy various items, such as silk sarees, brass vessels, bronze idols, pottery, jewelry, etc. The other temples of Murugan in the Arupadaiveedu circuit are the Thiruthani Murugan Temple, the Palani Murugan Temple, the Pazhamudircholai Murugan Temple, the Thirupparamkunram Murugan Temple, and the Thiruchendur Murugan Temple, which are also worth visiting.

Conclusion

Swaminathaswamy Temple, Swamimalai, is a temple that will enchant you with its legend, history, architecture, and festivals. It is a temple that will inspire you with its wisdom, courage, and love. It is a temple that will bless you with its grace and peace. ***It is a temple that you should not miss, if you are looking for a spiritual and cultural experience in Tamil Nadu.***

Ref: tripadvisor.in

Swamimalai Murugan Temple

Comments by Visitors



Venkataraman S

Chennai (Madras), India • 34 contributions

👍 0 ...



Temple #1 in Arupadaiveedu Trip from Chennai

Dec 2019

As part of our Aarupadaiveedu Trip from Chennai, we covered this temple as the first of 6. We three started from Chennai on 23rd Dec 2019 from Chennai by car and reached Kumbakonam around 11 PM and stayed there. Next day morning we started from Kumbakonam and reached Swami Malai at around 7 AM. It was actually raining moderately all through the way. So the crowd was very less. We had a nice dharsan and spend about 40 mins in the temple before heading to Pazhamuthir cholai.

Since the crowd was less and was raining we were able to get the car parking easily. But on a crowd day the parking may be little difficult. The temple is very neat and clean and had a peaceful and great Dharsan.

Follow my trip in the series of reviews of each arupadaiveedu temples to get the complete picture.

[Read less](#) ^

Written 1 January 2020



Mohan2013

Chennai (Madras), India • 1,888 contributions

👍 0 ...



Om Muruga

Jul 2022 • Couples

A place of Hindu worship where Lord Muruga is believed to have had his, father Lord Shiva, as a disciple to make a discourse on pranava mantra OM.

A beautiful temple atop a hillock with steep stairs to the sanctum sanatorium.



Written 17 July 2022



@Travel Lover

Chennai (Madras), India • 297 contributions

👍 0 ...



Superb dharshan of shivagurunathan

Nov 2019 • Solo

Lord muruga became the guru for his dad Lord shiva. When shiva stumbles to reply he said you bend down and take the answer from me. Upon his telling Lord shiva bent and and lent his ears to muruga. Thus he became shivagurunathan.

Of all 6 padai veedu in this temple Lord muruga stands tall and with different thandam at his right hand. He looks more matured and more stronger in appearance.

Temple looks great. In the outer walls of karpagraham hall we do have dakshnamurthy, lingothpower and durgai in all three sides of muruga

In the corridor beautifully carved mahalaxmi statue was blessing all devotees.

Down we have shiva and paarvathi sannidhi and we took another round.

Very divine and hertful peace came and occupied our soul after all dharshan

[Read less](#) ^



rasa006

Chennai (Madras), India • 211 contributions

👍 0 ...



One of the Arupadai Veedu of Lord Muruga - 4th Veedu, where Lord Muruga taught His Father.

Jun 2019 • Couples

No introduction is necessary to describe Swamimalai Murugan temple. This is a well known place to all devotees and it attracts thousands of them through out the year. During special days-like Karthigai star of the month, Vaigasi Visagam, Panguni Uthiram- unmanageable crowd can be seen at sanctum to have darshan of Lord Swaminatha, a Majestic Swaminatha with His Vel.

Many marriages are performed here and we attended one such marriage of our relative on that day. Ear piercing ceremony, head tonsuring, etc are a regular feature here, almost through out the year and in particular during good muhurtham days.

At the entrance, we can worship Lord Siva and Goddess, along with Navgraga sannidhi, Goddess Durga Devi sannidhi, etc. OMG, Lord Swaminatha always has good devotee crowd, waiting for HIS blessing.

[Read less](#) ^



Written 29 June 2019



WVR7933

Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India • 598 contributions

1 ...



Superb Temple... One of the Arupadaiveedu

Dec 2018 • Solo

Swamimalai Swaminatha Swamy Temple is located in Swamimalai dedicated to Lord Murugan. It is 5 km from Kumbakonam. The temple is one of the six holy shrines of Murugan called Arupadaiveedu. The shrine of the presiding deity, Swaminatha Swamy is at the top a 60 ft hillock. The shrines of his mother Parvathi (Meenakshi) and father Shiva (Sundareswarar) are at the downhill.

The temple is kept clean.. You can have special Darshan of Lord Muruga by paying Rs.50/- . We tend to see Lord Muruga again and again, such a Lovely Lord Vighraha.

Written 2 January 2019

Photos



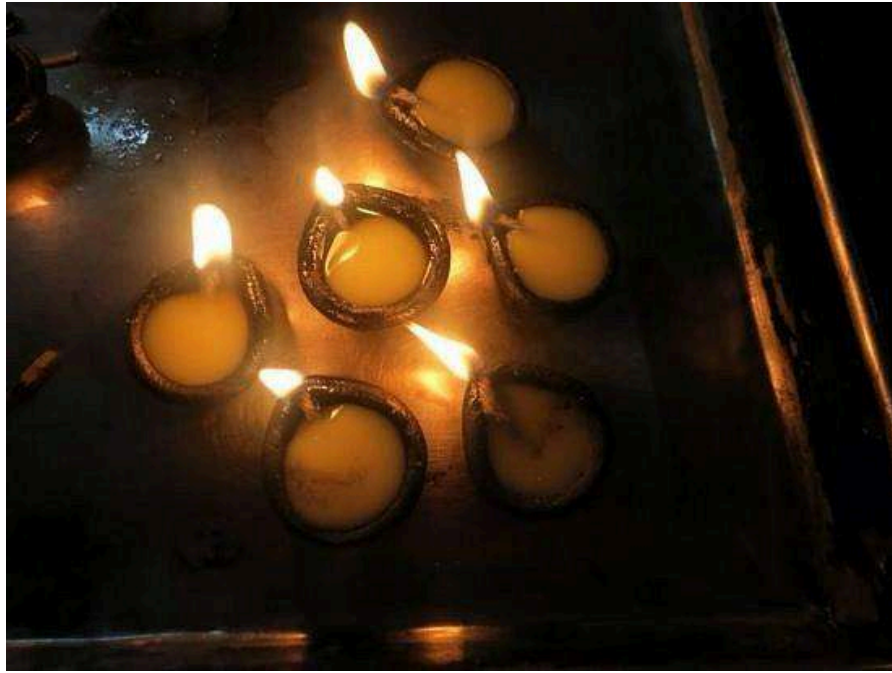


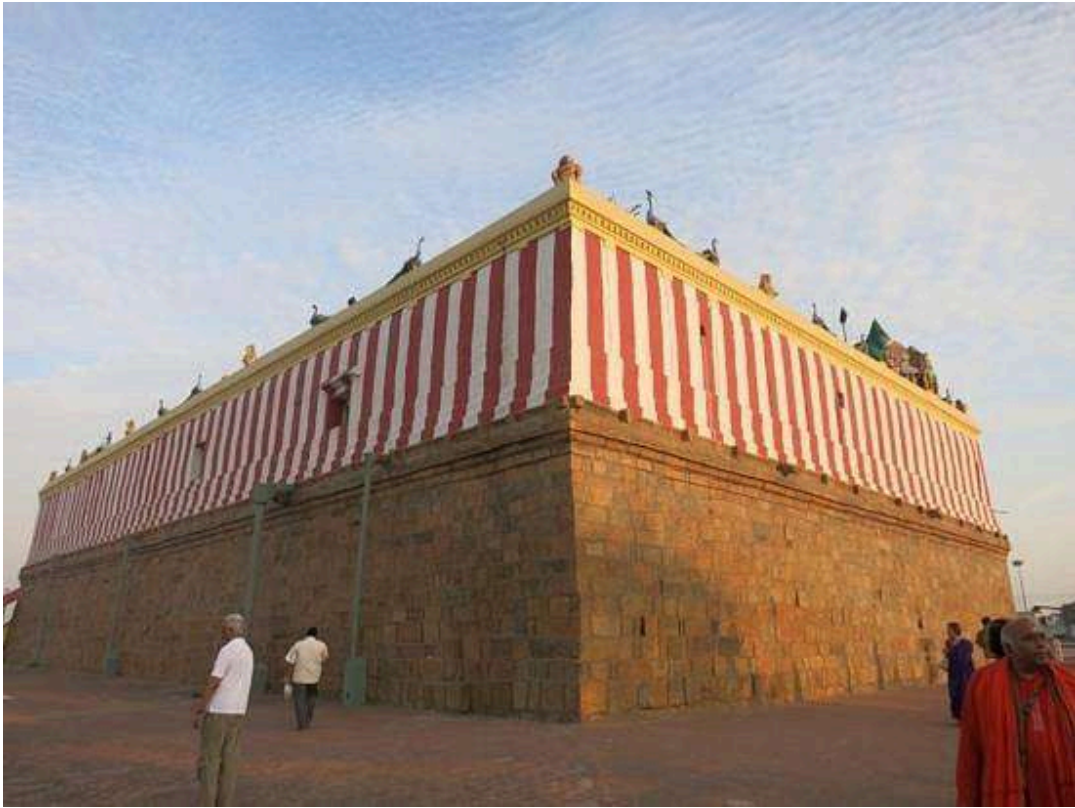








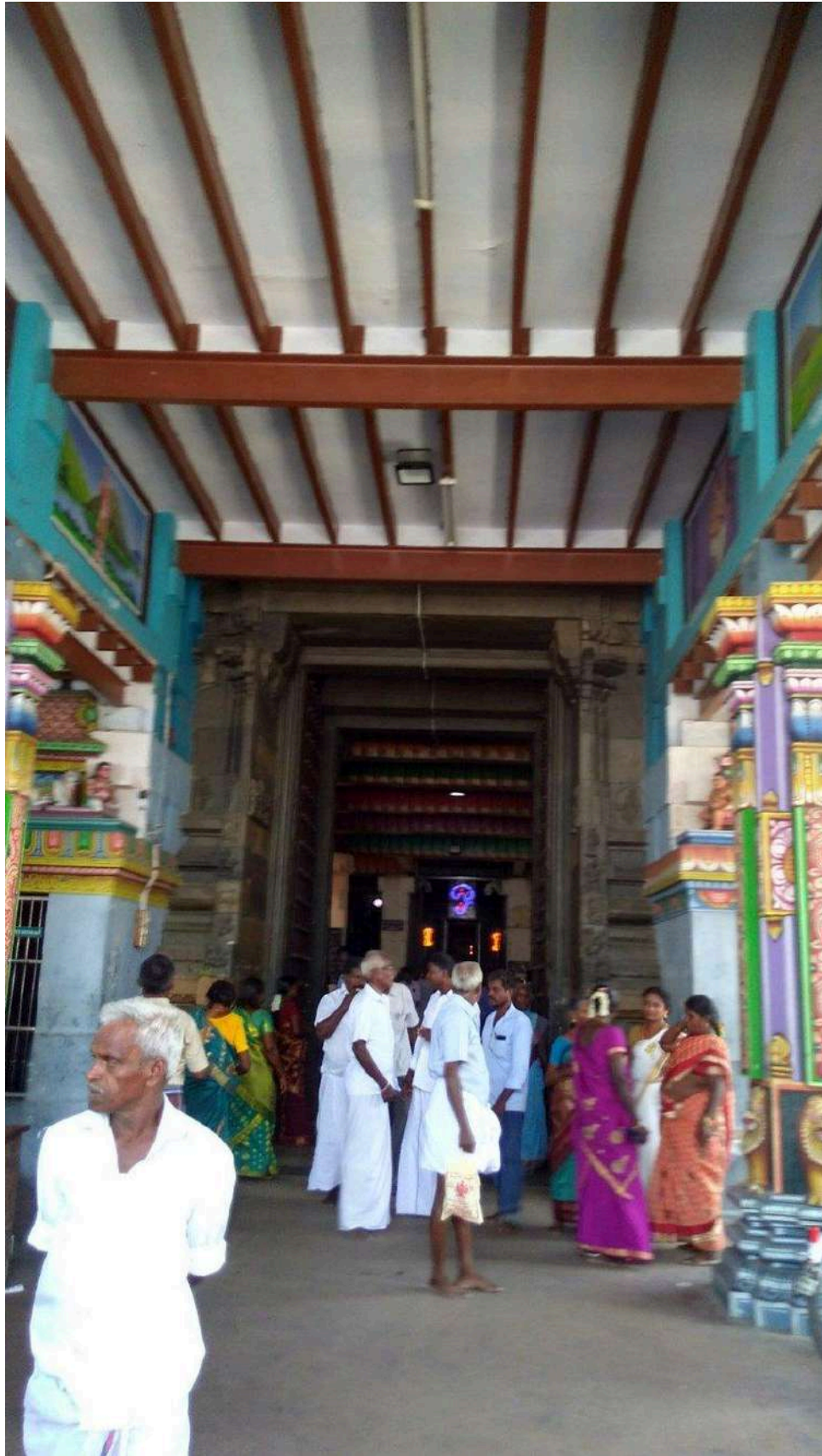




















Ref: swamimalaiswaminathar.hrce.tn.gov.in

This is the official web site of the Temple.

Arulmigu Swaminatha Swamy Temple, Swamimalai, Kumbakonam



Temple Specialty

Literary history has that Swamimalai is the place where Lord Muruga taught the meaning of **Om Pranava Mantra** to Lord Shiva. During Thiruneeru abishegam to the deity Lord Muruga is named as Gnanaguru (for his wisdom) whereas while sandal abishegam is performed he is known as majestic Balasubramania. The pedestal of the main deity looks alike the Sivalinga Avudaiyar and the deity himself is in the form of Shivalinga. This stands as a proof of the concept that Shiva and Muruga are one and the same. Unusually, except for peacock, an idol of elephant is installed before the Lord, which, as scriptures hold, was gifted by Indra after the Lord destroyed demon Harikesa..

Moolavar : **Swaminathan, Thagappan Swami, Subbiah**

Sthalam : **Upadesasthalam**

Thala virutcham: **Gooseberry tree**

Theertham: **Vajra Theertham, Kumaradarai, Saravana Theertham, Nethra kulam**

Historical Name: **Thiruveragam, Gurumalai, Gurugiri**

Temple Timings

Nadai Opening Time
06:00 AM IST - 01:00 PM IST
04:00 PM IST - 09:00 PM IST
Nadai Closing Time
01:00 PM IST - 04:00 PM IST
On monthly Kritikai days and other important festival days the shrine is open at morning to night Arthasamapuja. (does not Close at the inbetween timings)

Pooja Details

S.No. ↑↓	Pooja Name ↑↓	Pooja Timings ↑↓
1	Viswaroopa Pooja (Nirmalya Alangaram)	06:00 AM to 07:00 AM IST
2	Kalesandhi pooja (Thiruvabarana Alangaram)	09:00 AM to 09:30 AM IST
3	Uchikkala Pooja (Thiruvabarana Alangaram)	12:00 PM to 12:30 PM IST
4	Sayaraksha Pooja (Evening) (Thiruvabarana Alangaram)	05:00 PM to 06:00 PM IST
5	Irاندmkala Pooja (Sayaraksha Alangaram)	07:00 PM to 07:30 PM IST
6	Ardhajama Pooja (Yegandha Alangaram)	09:00 PM to 09:30 PM IST

Fee details for Poojas

S.No. ↑↓	Fees Description ↑↓	Remarks ↑↓	Fees
1	The Golden Chariot Departure		2000.00
2	Moolavar Abishegam (Including all Pooja Things and offerings)		3000.00
3	Shanmugarcharnai (Including all pooja things and Offerings)		6000.00
4	Gold Kavasam		2000.00
5	KATTALAI ARCHANAI		500.00

Temple facilities

S.No. ↑↓	Facility Name ↑↓	Facility Location
1	Golden Chariot	Safe room on temple&rsquos west side.
2	Lactating Mothers Room	Inside of Marriage Hall No.2 in Ground Floor
3	Marriage Hall	Marriage hall in temple have in ground floor.
4	Conduct of Marriage	Nadavanam mandam and Urchava Manadapam
5	Thulabharam Facility	Opposite of Thala Virutcham
6	Tonsure Facility	Ettamthirunaal Thoppu
7	Library Facility	In front of Office
8	Vehicle Parking	Near dormitory (Ettam Thirunal Thopu)
9	Wheel Chair	South Entrance Office Front
10	Accommodation Facility	West side of the temple.

Administration - Executive Officer:

Tmt. T.UMADEV I M.L.,

Deputy Commissioner / Exec. Officer

Arulmigu Swaminatha Swamy Temple

Thirumanjanaveethi,

Swamimalai, Kumbakonam,

Thanjavur - 612302.

Landline No. : 04352454421

Email : swamimalaiswaminathaswamy[at]gmail[dot]com

Contact Info

Arulmigu Swaminatha Swamy Temple

Thirumanjanaveethi,

Swamimalai, Kumbakonam,

Thanjavur - 612302.

Phone Number : 04352454421

Email : swamimalaiswaminathaswamy[at]gmail[dot]com

Donation info

See the website to to make a donation

Photos - Kanda Sasti Thiruvizha - 7 - 11 - 2024:











YouTube Videos

Swamimalai Murugan temple - vlog (5 min):

https://youtu.be/hb0_HZYoEJw?si=R81LURjdSitonahR

Swamimalai temple full tour - Telugu (8 min):

<https://youtu.be/UHSUvPIHoXE?si=mu2ogEEgy7TwQRot>

Swamimalai Murugan temple (5 min):

<https://youtu.be/YF202Pp5rK4?si=qr6xBjYrjKY9Roth>

Swamimalai Murugan darshan - shorts video:

https://youtube.com/shorts/chPsWyRPFHI?si=dUY_mUHG_APcci3-

Swamimalai Murugan secrets (3 min):

<https://youtu.be/-xlte-jAt4g?si=C39s3CgS0RmF5udG>

Swamimalai Murugan History - Tamil (7 min):

<https://youtu.be/Mk4KuISVBVc?si=TkTKYzP3XMYjXIQN>

Swamimalai Murugan temple - vlog (3 min):

https://youtu.be/h2Eu_6Dzdnc?si=105L3y8OScU3M3w7

Story, secrets of Swamimalai Swaminathaswamy - Telugu (3 min):

<https://youtu.be/E0Nw0slkJQ?si=qyrVK-rA96cH-jjz>

Swamimalai -Kanda Sashti - Thanthi TV (3 min):

https://youtu.be/rXXnzLJcB_4?si=0oIFvpMIAjS0NuAU

Swamimalai to Kumbakonam (8 min):

https://youtu.be/qWPmDK6AQR8?si=X89btIW2zZh_3Md8

Swamimalai Murugan temple - vlog (19 min):

<https://youtu.be/3giK43wiCoc?si=LMLVzfPa7mlvqD2i>

Swamimalai Murugan - rare information (9 min):

<https://youtu.be/QxKS3IplrLU?si=BAJsGI0BSCAKmjgn>

Swamimalai Murugan temple History - Tamil (1 min):

<https://youtu.be/cFtsyVnouYk?si=1MsCNT15QhocQB9U>

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ॐ स॒ह ना॑ ववतु । स॒ह नौ॑ भुनक्तु । स॒ह वी॒र्यं॑ करवावहै । ते॒ज॒स्विना॒वधी॑तमस्तु मा वि॒द्विषा॒वहै॑ ॥ (3)

ॐ शान्तिः॒ शान्तिः॒ शान्तिः॑ ॥ (3)

Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar

**Sri Murugan Temple, Thiruttani,
Tamil Nadu, India**



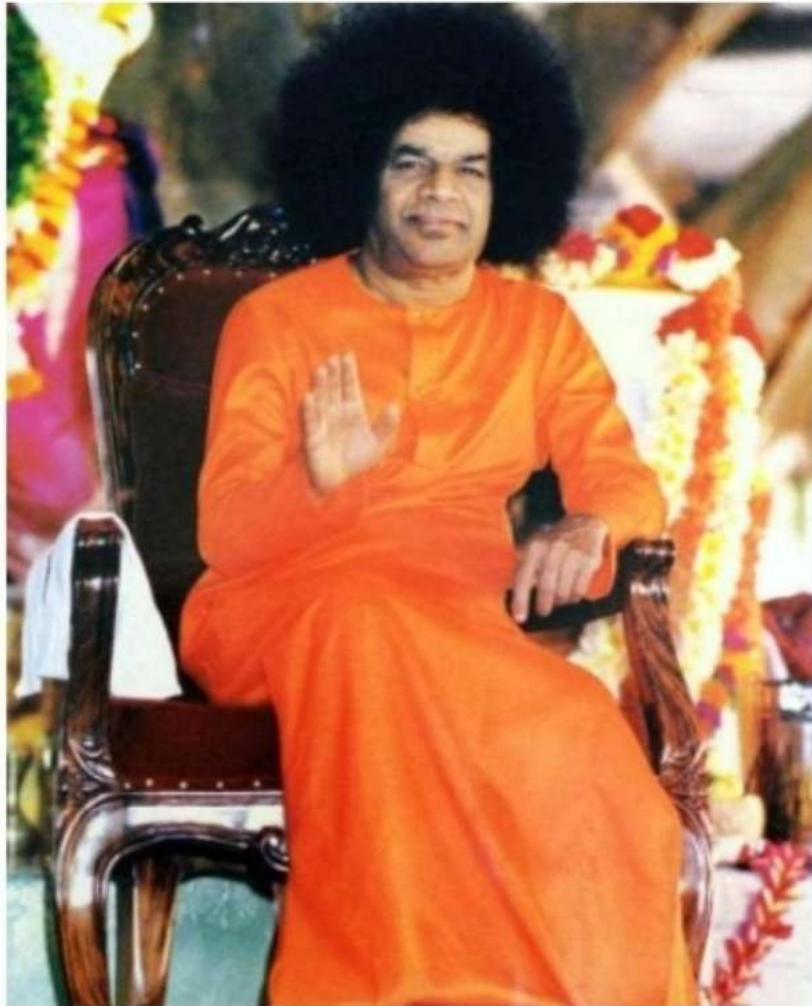
**Compiled by
Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar**

formerly:

- (i) Professor, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering,
St. Joseph Engineering College,
Vamanjoor, Mangalore – 575 028, India
- (ii) Principal, Vivekananda College of Engineering and Technology,
Puttur (D.K.) – 574 203, India
- (iii) Head, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering,
Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues Institute of Technology,
Vashi, Navi Mumbai 400 703, India
- (iv) Senior Scientific Officer and Head,
Cryogenics Section,
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay, Mumbai, India
and
Centre for Advanced Technology, Indore 452013, India

DEDICATION

**This work is lovingly dedicated at the lotus feet of:
Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba**



**There is only ONE caste -The Caste of Humanity
There is only ONE religion –The Religion of Love
There is only ONE language –The Language of the Heart
There is only ONE God –He is Omnipresent**

.....Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba

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PREFACE



This free ebook gives briefly info about: **“Sri Murugan Temple, Thiruttani, Tamil Nadu”**

The Murugan Temple is a Hindu temple, on the hill of Tiruttani, Tiruvallur district, Tamil Nadu.

Tiruttani is 87 kilometres (54 mi) from Chennai. It is fifth among the six abodes of Murugan (Arupadai Vidu) The other five are Palani Murugan Temple, Swamimalai Murugan Temple, Thiruchendur Murugan Temple, Thiruparankundram and Pazhamudircholai Murugan Temple. After killing the asura Tarakasura in Tiruchendur, he came here to subside his anger, so Surasamharam is not conducted here.

Details of Temple History, legends, festivals, deities, Timings, address, map, phone number and how to reach there, temple speciality, architecture, tips for visitors, darshan and Pooja Timings, details of poojas and their cost, contact info, donation info, comments by visitors,..etc are given.

Many good photos of the temple and related activities like festivals etc are given.

Links to YouTube Videos give videos relating to the temple, its legend and history, festivals, Adi Kritikai festival, Temple travel vlogs, temple tour...etc

Acknowledgements:

Many of my friends and relatives have actively encouraged me in my attempt to compile this free ebook. I sincerely thank them for their support.

My wife Kala has always encouraged and supported me in all my literary works, sacrificing much of her time. I express my deep appreciation to her.

I have drawn from many references, and YouTube as mentioned in the text.

Finally, I express my immense gratitude to Sri Sathya Sai Baba for His Grace and blessings, prompting me to initiate, continue and complete this work.

Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar,
January 1, 2025
Email: tmuliya@rediffmail.com

Ref: Wikipedia

Sri Murugan (Subrahmanya Swamy) Temple, Thiruttani, Tamil Nadu



The Murugan Temple is a Hindu temple, on the hill of Tiruttani, Tiruvallur district, Tamil Nadu, India, dedicated to Murugan. The hill has 365 steps indicating 365 days of the year. It is fifth among the six abodes of Murugan (Arupadai Vidu) The other five are Palani Murugan Temple, Swamimalai Murugan Temple, Thiruchendur Murugan Temple, Thiruparankundram and Pazhamudircholai Murugan Temple. Tiruttani is 87 kilometres (54 mi) from Chennai. It is the only adobe located within the Greater Chennai Metropolitan Area limit. During the Sangam era, Tiruttani was known as Kundruthoradal. After killing the asura Tarakasura in Tiruchendur, he came here to subside his anger, so Surasamharam is not conducted here.

History

The origins of this temple are buried in antiquity. This temple has been mentioned in the Sangam period work *Tirumurugatruppada* composed by [Nakkeerar](#). It has been patronized by the [Vijayanagara](#) rulers and local chieftains and zamindars. The original animal mount of Murugan is believed to have been an elephant, compared to the peacock which is considered to be the most common mount. The white elephant is considered a powerful, terror striking animal. The iconography is maintained only in two places, namely, this temple and Tiruttani Murugan Temple.

Legend

According to the [regional legend](#) of the temple, [Indra](#), the king of the devas gave his daughter [Devasena](#) in marriage to Murugan, and along with her presented his elephant [Airavata](#) as part of his offering. Upon Airavata's departure, Indra found his wealth waning. Murugan is said to have offered to return the white elephant, however Indra bound by protocol refused to accept a gift that he had made, and insisted that the elephant face his direction, hence the image of the elephant in this temple also faces the east. Another legend has it that Indra presented a sandal stone as a part of his daughter's gift. The sandal paste made on this stone is applied to the image of Murugan and the applied paste is said to acquire medicinal value. Murugan is also believed to have imparted knowledge of [Tamil](#) to the sage [Agastya](#) and he is heralded with the epithets Veeramurti, Jnanamurti, and acharya murti in this shrine.

On worshipping at Thanikai, the king of the snakes, [Vasuki](#) got his bodily wounds healed, which had been caused during the [Samudra Manthana](#) to secure the [amrita](#) (nectar of immortality) by the devas and [asuras](#) when the [Mandara](#) mountain was used as the churning base and the snake king Vasuki as the rope. Sage [Agastya](#) worshipped Murugan at Tanikai when he was blessed with the divine gift of the [Tamil language](#).

Architecture

The temple is located on a hill named Thanigai hill with 60 steps. The temple has a five-tiered [gopuram](#) and four precincts. There are several water bodies associated with the temple. The temple has two shrines, namely, Murugan in the form of Shaktidharar and the shrines of [Valli](#) and [Devasena](#) in two other shrines.

Religious significance

Apart from its puranic greatness, Saint [Arunagirinathar](#) has praised this hill as the chosen place for worship by devas and the favorite abode of saints performing prolonged tapas. He also compared this hill to Shivaloka (Kailasha) and as the very soul of the world. Sri [Muthuswami Dikshitar](#), who lived 200 years ago (one of the trinity of Carnatic music) had his inspiration in Tiruttani when Murugan (in the guise of an old man) met him on the steps and sweetened his tongue with the prasadam of this temple, which impelled him to compose and render his first kriti "Sri Nathadhi Guruguho Jayati Jayati" (song) Murugan of Tanikai. The temple [vimanam](#) was covered by gold.

Administration

The temple is maintained and administered by the [Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department](#) of the [Government of Tamil Nadu](#)

Timings

Usually the temple is open from 5:45 a.m. to 21:00. On special days, the temple is open full day in between 12pm to 3 pm is closed on some festival time.^[3]

Festivals

Besides the monthly Karthikai's which attract a large number of devotees to this shrine, the two outstanding annual festivals are the Aadi Kritikai and 31 December New Year Step Festival. The float festival is celebrated in the month of Adi, Brahmotsavam in the month of Masi, during which Valli Kalyanam is celebrated on the 8th day, and the Murugan Shashti is celebrated in the [Tamil month](#) of Aippasi.

Aadi Karthigai

Aadi Karthigai festival (in July–August) lasts for three days with Float Festival when hundreds of thousands of devotees come to this holy place from far and near.

Ref: tiruvallur.nic.in

Arulmigu Subramaniya Swami Temple, Tiruttani

The beautiful temple of Lord Muruga at Tiruttani crowns a single rock 700 feet above sea level. It is situated amidst a range of hills with a dramatic panoramic view. This sacred place is on the Chennai-Mumbai, 13 kilometers from Arakkonam and 84 kilometers from Chennai.

Around this town are famous religious places such as Kancheepuram (Banares of the South) on the South, Sholingur and Vallimalai on the West, the popular and renowned pilgrimage centre, Tirupati (otherwise called Balaji) and Kalahasti (with its Vayu Lingam) on the North and Tiruvalangadu (of puranic fame) with Lord Nataraja on the East.

Greatness of Tirutanikai – Puranic Importance

Of Lord Murugan's six Padaiveedus, Tirutanikai ranks prominent as the crown jewel of our Lord. As its very name indicates, when we propitiate our Lord in this holy shrine, He blesses us with mental peace and bodily happiness. His righteous indignation towards the asuras for their cruelty is said to have been quelled and cooled at this place which is, therefore, known as Shantipuri (Abode of Peace). As the prayers and desires of the devotees who worship our Lord Tanikesan on this hill with unswerving faith and intense devotion are fulfilled in no time, this hill is also called Chanikasalam.

When Lord Murugan came to this hill after wedding Goddess Valli at Vallimalai, She implored Him to enlighten Her on the importance and greatness of this hill. In reply, our Lord said that

if one worshipped Him with heart and soul for five consecutive days in this hill temple, that person would be blessed with all that is best in this life and hereafter.

In Treta Yuga, Lord Rama, after putting an end to Ravana, worshipped Lord Siva at Rameswaram, at whose request Rama came to Tiruttani and found perfect peace of mind by worshipping our Lord Subrahmanya here. In Dwapara Yuga, Arjuna got the blessings of Lord Murugan here by offering prayers to Him on his way to the South for Teertha Yatra (pilgrimage to take sacred immersion). Lord Vishnu prayed to our Lord at this place and got back His powerful Cakra (sacred wheel), Shanku (sacred conch), which were forcibly seized from Him by Tarakasura, brother of Soorapadma.

Lord Brahma propitiated Lord Murugan here at the holy spring (by the sides of the steps to the shrine) known as Brahmasanai after his imprisonment by Lord Murugan for his failure to explain the Pranava ('Om' mantra) and got back his creative function of which he was deprived by Lord Murugan due to his egotistic impudence in neglecting to worship Lord Subrahmanya on his way to Mount Kailasa to worship Lord Siva.

Lord Indra planted and reared in the pool known as Indrasanai adjoining this hill temple the rare plant known as Karunkuvalai, which gave three flowers a day and worshipped our Lord thrice daily with these flowers and, thus, got back the precious wealth of Deva Loka such as Sanghaneeti, Padmaneeti, Chintamani, etc seized by the asura titan.

Nanda Devi worshipped our Lord here on the bank of the Nandi River and got His peerless initiation to realize the unique relationship between the soul (jeevatma) and God (Paramatma), which is the quintessence of Saiva Siddhanta philosophy, the choicest product of the Dravidian intellect according to the pioneering dravidologist Dr. G.V. Pope.

On worshipping our Lord at Thanikai, the king of snakes Vasuki got his bodily wounds healed, which had been caused during the churning process in the Milky Ocean to secure the Amrita (nectar of immortality) by the devas and asuras when the Mantotra Mountain was used as the churning base and the snake king Vasuki as the rope. Sage Agasthyar Muni (of Potikai Hill) worshipped our Lord at Tanikai when he was blessed with the rare divine gift of the ever-sweet peerless Tamil language, the beauty of which has been extolled by all the great saints and poets of Tamil Nadu.

Literary Importance

Apart from the puranic greatness of Tirutanikai, Saint Arunagirinathar, the illustrious devotee of Lord Muruga who lived 600 years ago, praised this hill as the chosen place for worship by devas and the favorite abode of saints performing prolonged tapas (austerities). He also compared this hill to Sivaloka (Bhuloka) and as the very soul of the world. Saint Ramalinga Swamikal (Arutprakasa Vallalar), who lived 150 years ago, was invited to come here by our Lord of Tanikai (seated on this hill) Who appeared before our saint in the mirror of his puja room at Madras after which the soul-stirring arutpa songs flowed from his lips in chaste Tamil like a torrential stream.

Sri Muttuswami Deekshitar, who lived 200 years ago (one of the trinity of Carnatic music) had his inspiration in Tiruttani when our Lord (in the guise of an old man) met him on the steps and sweetened his tongue with the prasadam of this temple, which impelled him to

sing his first song — of course — on Lord Murugan of Tanikai. Many miraculous events take place at this shrine from time to time by the grace of our Lord. Oh, how grand and glorious is our Lord Tanigesan on this sacred hill of ancient fame and name!

Specialities of Tiruttani

Saravana Poikai

The sacred tanks of the shrines of our Lord are all known as Saravanapoikai ('sacred pond of the reedy marsh' where Lord Karttikeya was born). The tank at Tiruttani, which (unlike in other places) is at the very foot of the hill, is particularly renowned for its sacred water (teertham) having curative effect for ailments both bodily and mental, as it is rich in minerals such as sulfur, iron, etc. A bath in this holy tank refreshes the devotee and makes him hale and healthy to propitiate our Lord with faith and devotion.

Saptarishi Teertham

At the lovely garden on the south side of this sacred hill amidst a thick cluster of shady trees and seven cool springs, the Seven Rishis (who today form the Great Bear stellar constellation) are said to have worshipped Lord Muruga and the Sapta Kannikas (Seven Virgins) enshrined at this place in a tiny temple.

On the outskirts of the Tiruttani town, on both sides of the Nandi River, are the ancient temples of Lord Vijayaragama Swami, Arumuga Swami and Veerateeswarar, the latter two of which are more than a thousand years old. In the temple of Arumuga Swami, there is sun worship every year for three days in March when the rising sun is said to worship our Lord by casting its rays upon the holy Feet of the deity on the first day, Breast on the second day and Head on the third day through a hole in the wall, which reveals the marvellous intellect of the architects of ancient days.

Festivals

Besides the monthly Krittikais which attract a large number of devotees to this shrine, the two outstanding annual festivals are the Aadi Krittikai and the 31st of December New Year Step Festival.

December 31st Step Festival

When the old (Gregorian) year is rung out and the New Year sets in (ie at the stroke of midnight on December 31st each year), lakhs of devotees are present on the sacred Tanikai hill to have the darshan of their Lord. They come to Tiruttani to offer their heart-felt prayers to our Lord on that day and night to be blessed with peace and plenty during the New Year.

This festival came into vogue during the British Raj when the famous Vallimalai Swamikal persuaded his followers to offer their homage first to Lord Tanigesan, the giver of all good, and only then to their official bosses. On this day, numerous bhajana parties gather and ascend the hill, singing the melodious Tiruppugazh songs and burning camphor on each of the hill's 365 steps, one for each day of the New Year.

The entire atmosphere is filled with the music of these devotional songs, which is a feast to the eyes and ears. The sight of the Vel Kavadi taken to the shrine by some devotees on this day with the thin, sharp ends pricked and pierced all over the body above the hip (in spite of which they carry it with ease and grace) inspires and elevates our thoughts to adore our Lord for His mighty, marvellous and miraculous powers.

Devasthanam Amenities

The following amenities have been provided by Tiruttani Devasthanam for the benefit and convenience of the public:

- Ghat Road for easy and speedy access to the temple with Devasthanam buses and vans plying the route
- Self-contained, well-furnished Devasthanam cottages and rooms within easy reach of the temple
- Kalyana Mandapams for performance of marriages
- Kalyana Utsavam (wedding ceremony) may be performed for a nominal fee
- A Golden Car (Thanga Ther) 18 feet in height gilded with nine kilos of gold and crafted with exquisite craft man ship may be taken out and pulled in procession around the temple upon payment
- Pure cow's milk (for abhishekam) and other puja articles are sold at the Fair Price Shop
- Publications, calendars, rosaries and souvenir mementos are available for sale
- Palliyarai Puja (to obtain His Grace in divine slumber) may be performed. On payment of a lump sum, the puja will be performed in perpetuity for one day each year from the accrued interest
- Orphanage and Karunai Illam for poor, parentless boys who are given free meals, lodging, clothing, public education and other facilities
- Sri Subramanya Swamy Government Arts College at Tiruttani supported by Devasthanam donations
Siddha Vaidya Dispensary
- Dr. S. Radhakrishnan Library on the site of his birth in Tiruttani town

For More Details Visit [Official Website of Arulmigu Subramanya Swami Temple](#)

How to Reach

By Air

Chennai Airport

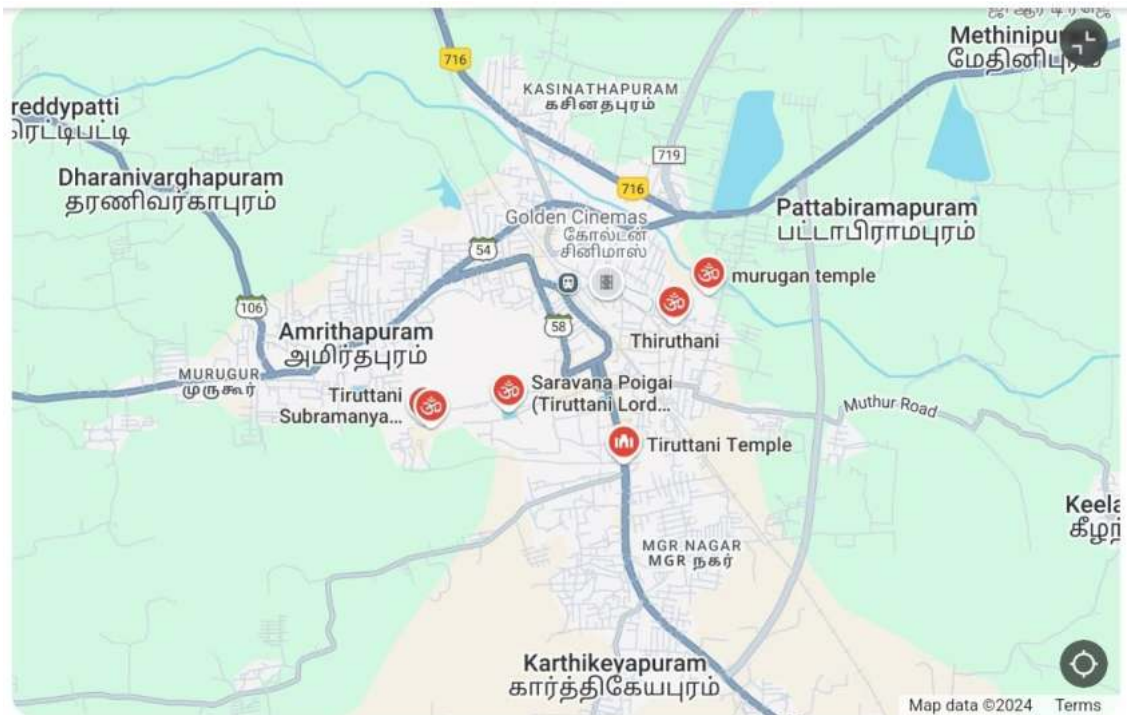
By Train

Southern Railway also operates frequent passenger services to and from Chennai. Many electric trains are operated and some express trains which pass through this station stop here. The first local train from Chennai Central is 4:00 am and last train is at 8:15 pm.

By Road

Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation operates frequent buses from locations including Chennai, Salem, Bangalore, Tiruvallur, Vellore, Arakkonam, Chittoor, Chengalpet, Kanchipuram, Thiruvannamalai, Thiruppathi and Local Bus Services Available to near by Villages/Towns

Map



Thiruthani Murugan Temple

On route to Tirupati, fifty-four miles from Chennai, In Thiruthani, lies the sacred Thiruthani Murugan temple. It stands proudly on the hills of Thiruttani, Tiruvallur district, Tamil Nadu, seven hundred feet above the sea level. It is one of the six holy abodes of Lord Muruga, known as a whole as the Arupadaiveedu.

Thiruthani Murugan is also known as Sri Subrahmanya Swami Kovil. The devotees make their way climbing three hundred sixty-five steps to reach the shrine, the number 365 has a deep meaning hidden within itself as it represents the 365 days of the year. The stories associated with the temple are as bewildering as the temple itself, amongst them, one says that Muruga chose to rest atop the hill to calm himself down in the aftermath of the battle with the demon king Surapadman which had resulted in the latter's demise. Another legend states that Indra, the lord of heaven, gave a nod to the marriage between his daughter Devayani and Muruga and as a gift, handed him over his elephant Airavata. Gradually Indra began to notice his wealth days after Airavata left, To which Muruga had offered to return the elephant but was respectfully declined by Indira who instead insisted that the elephant should face his direction. All the elephants at the temple along with their images have been facing east to this day.

History Behind the Temple

The origins of this temple, like the most ones, are buried in antiquity. Though there is no well-verified account of the origins of the temple, the Tamil inscriptions on the walls of the temple give us a little hint. They point towards the possibility of the temple being built by the Pallava kings in the ninth-tenth century CE and later on renovated by the Cholas. The original animal mount of Murugan is an elephant, contrary to the peacock, which is considered to be the most common mount. The white elephant, considered as a symbol of power and terror, is known to be associated with Muruga, which is well supported by the ancient scriptures.



Thiruthani set an example of true love, which would be witnessed by generations to come. Even a millennia later, it keeps reminding us again and again that true love knows no bounds. Such is the story of Lord Muruga and his consort Valli.

Valli was a mere human but the love she possessed for her creator knew no limits and was too strong, even for Lord Muruga himself. A baby girl was found amidst the plants by Nambirajan, the head of the Gypsy-Kuravas community, who took her in and brought her up. He named Her Valli after the plants.

Valli was a watch woman in the field of grains who was tasked with driving the birds away. Once an aged hunter (who was a disguised Lord Muruga) caught her attention and moments later, saved her life from a storming elephant. She thanked him but in return was asked by the hunter to marry him. She refused, stating that her love was only for the almighty for she could never love anyone other than him. She successfully passed the ultimate testament. Muruga embraced her and his touch cleared all her illusions. This event is celebrated as Valli Kalyanam.

This makes us understand that the world and the material wealth we are hunting for, is ours but only the enlightened souls understand the truth and are successful in reaching their final destination.

This temple is also mentioned in the Sangam period work Thirumurugatrupadai, composed by Nakkeerar, which had been patronized by the Vijayanagar rulers, local chieftains and zamindars.

Story behind the Temple



Story has it that Indra, the Lord of heaven, gave his daughter Deivayanai in the marriage to Muruga, and presented his elephant Airavatam as part of his dowry offering. Upon Airavatam's departure, Indra found his wealth to be waning. Lord Murugan offered to return

the elephant, however Indra for whom honor stood before anything else, refused the offer, and rather insisted that the elephant face his direction. Since then every elephant in the temple pointed towards the east.

It is said that Lord Rama, after defeating Ravana, worshipped Lord Shiva at Rameshwaram and then came to Tiruthani to attain peace.

Vasuki, The snake king, got his bodily wounds healed, which had been caused during the Samudra Manthan, the churning process in the Milky Ocean to secure the nectar of immortality called Amrita, by the devas and the asuras.

Lord Muruga is said to have shed his anger here at Thiruthani, after finishing the demon.

The Unique Architecture

The Thiruthani Murugan is built in the Dravidian style of architecture on a hill named Thanigai. The beautiful abode of Lord Muruga crowns a single rock 700 feet above sea level. It is situated amidst a range of hills which showcase a dramatic panoramic view. The procession deity's shrine is in a mandap made of 1 lakh Rudrakshas.

The temple has a five-level gopuram along with four precincts. There are several water bodies associated with the temple. The temple has two shrines, namely, Murugan in the form of Shaktidharar and the shrines of Valli and Deivayanai in two other chambers.

Religious Significance

When Lord Murugan came to this hill after the wedding of Goddess Valli at Vallimalai, she requested him to enlighten her on greatness of this hill. Lord Murugan replied that if one worshipped Him with heart and soul for five consecutive days in this hill temple, the person would be blessed with the best in his life and after.

In Dwapara Yuga, Arjuna received the blessings of Lord Muruga here, praying to him all his way to the South for Teertha Yatra.

Lord Vishnu got his sacred wheel(chakra) and conch(Shanku) (which were forcibly seized from Him by Tarakasura, the brother of Soorapadma) back after praying to Lord Murugan here.

Lord Indra got back the precious wealth of Deva Loka Sanghaneeti, Padmaneeti, Chintamani seized by Surapadman after worshipping the Lord with three flowers a day, which were obtained from a rare plant Karun Kuvalai which was planted at the pool.

Nanda Devi received his peerless initiation to realize the unique relationship between the soul (Jeev Atma) and God (Paramatma) after worshipping Lord Muruga here on the bank of the Nandi River.

On worshipping Lord Murugan at Thanikai, The king of snakes Vasuki got his bodily wounds healed which had been caused by Samudra Manthan.

Sage Agastya Muni was blessed with the rare divine gift of the ever-sweet peerless Tamil language after worshipping the lord here, the beauty of which has been praised and appreciated by all the great saints and poets throughout India.

Land of Mystics

Arunagirinathar

Arunagirinathar, among Tiruvannamalai's most famous saints and a renowned Murugan devotee. He was a Tamil Scholar and a famous poet. Been driven so much by personal gain and pleasure, he spent all his hard-earned money on prostitutes at the house of the devadāsīs. Over the years, his body began to lose its energetic youth rapidly, as he contracted numerous diseases.

With future moments that unfolded, Arunagirinathar realized, the path which he was following, taking whatever he fancied for years and not giving a tinker's curse for those he had hurt in the way, led to only his destruction. Realizing his crimes against the righteous path, he decided to end his life. He begged for forgiveness, then jumped from the top of the temple but was saved by the almighty himself. Murugan stated that life had greater in store for him, for he had to fulfill a divine mission, making others rise through his works.

Once trapped between the Jaws of death and darkness, Arunagirinathar now found himself in hands that radiated brilliant rays of brightness and with his own eyes, saw Lord Muruga. Lord Muruga then helped Arunagirinathar with the first sentence of his inspired poetry in his praise, with the world-famous song "Muthai Tharu Patthittirunagai". He then embarked on his divine mission to spread the holy word of the Lord all over the land.

Arunagirinathar's most well-known works have gone in the pages of history within the walls of Thiruthani Murugan. He heaped praise on the soothing and calming atmosphere along with the aura of Lord Murugan he felt working there. Many Siddhas who came in the future, have found their peace of mind here.

Interesting Facts

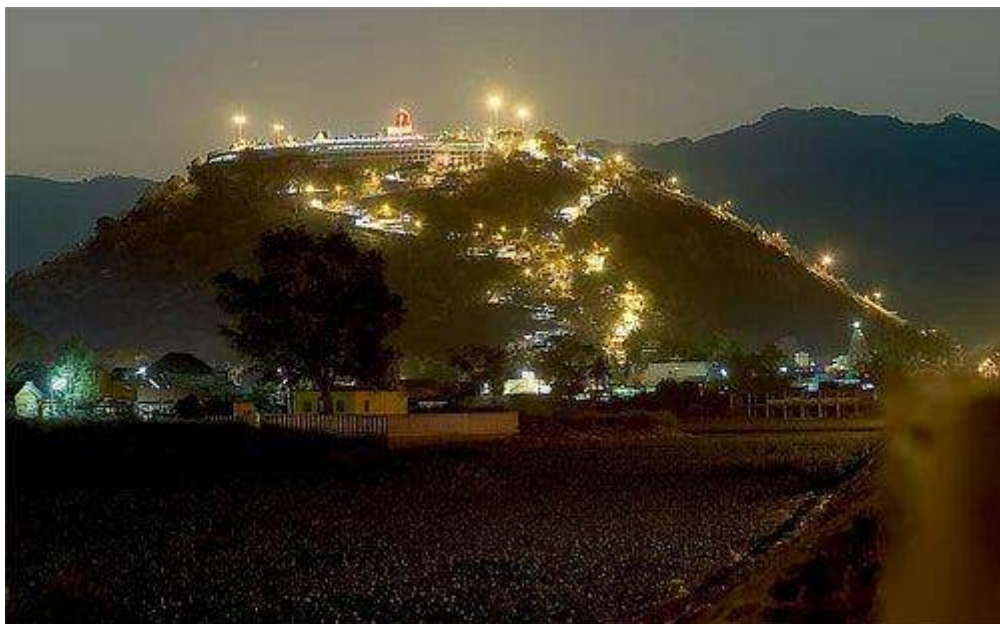
- It is believed that the wedding between Lord Murugan and Valli took place here, in Thiruthani.
- All the elephants in this temple face east.
- It is said Nanda Devi achieved initiation and illumination at Thiruthani, by understanding the relationship between Jeevatma and Paramatma.
- The Thiruthani Saravanapoikai, the sacred pond at the foothill, is highly renowned for its curative effects because the flowing water is enriched with sulfur, iron, and many other minerals. A person is cured of both his physical and mental issues, once he takes a dip there.
- The primary sanctum of the temple is built with one lakh rudrakshas.

- Another interesting fact is that three consecutive days in March allow the rising sun into the primary sanctum. On the first day, it touches the feet of the primary deity, while on the second day it falls on its heart, and on the final day, it covers the Head.

Ref: pujacraft.com

About Tiruttani Temple

January 3, 2024



The Tiruttani Temple, nestled in the town of Tiruttani in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, is a revered Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Murugan, the God of War and Victory. Perched atop a hill known as Swamimalai, this sacred site holds great significance as one of the six abodes of Lord Murugan, called Arupadaiveedu.

Legend has it that Lord Murugan vanquished the demon Surapadma at this very spot, making it a site of immense religious importance. The temple's architecture is a blend of traditional South Indian style, adorned with intricate carvings and sculptures, attracting devotees and tourists alike.

Devotees ascend a flight of steps, around 365 in number, symbolizing the days of the year, leading to the hilltop temple. The panoramic view from the summit, coupled with the spiritual ambiance, makes the pilgrimage a deeply enriching experience for visitors.

Throughout the year, various festivals and religious ceremonies are celebrated with fervor, particularly the annual Brahmotsavam, drawing devotees from far and wide to partake in the festivities and seek the blessings of Lord Murugan.

The Tiruttani Temple stands as a testament to the rich cultural heritage and spiritual significance deeply embedded in the fabric of Tamil Nadu's religious landscape, welcoming pilgrims seeking solace, blessings, and a deeper connection with divinity.

What is special in Tiruttani temple

The Tiruttani Temple, situated in the town of Tiruttani in Tamil Nadu, stands as a revered site dedicated to Lord Murugan, the God of War and Victory. What makes this temple particularly special is its designation as one of the six abodes of Lord Murugan, known as Arupadaiveedu, imparting immense spiritual significance to its devotees. Legend has it that atop the hill of Swamimalai, this temple marks the battleground where Lord Murugan defeated the demon Surapadma, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil. The temple's architecture, a splendid display of traditional South Indian style adorned with intricate carvings and sculptures, captivates the eyes of visitors and devotees alike.

The ascent to the temple involves climbing around 365 steps, each step symbolizing a day of the year, adding a profound dimension of symbolism and spiritual significance to the pilgrimage. Beyond its mythological and historical importance, the Tiruttani Temple provides a serene and panoramic view from its hilltop location, fostering a spiritual ambiance that deeply touches the hearts of those who visit. Throughout the year, the temple hosts various festivals and religious ceremonies, with the annual Brahmotsavam being a significant event, attracting devotees from far and wide to partake in the celebrations and seek the blessings of Lord Murugan.

Overall, the Tiruttani Temple is a place of immense cultural heritage and spiritual sanctity, drawing pilgrims seeking solace, blessings, and a deeper connection with the divine. Its unique amalgamation of historical significance, architectural beauty, and religious fervor makes it a cherished and special place among the devotees of Lord Murugan.

Which God is in Tiruttani?



The principal deity worshipped at Tiruttani is Lord Murugan, also known as Kartikeya or Subramanya. Lord Murugan is revered as the God of War and Victory in Hindu mythology. The Tiruttani Temple specifically honors and houses a shrine dedicated to Lord Murugan, making it one of the significant pilgrimage sites for his devotees.

Tracing Legends and Historical Significance

The Tiruttani Temple's history intertwines with the mythical lore of Lord Murugan, revered as the God of War and Victory. Legend has it that atop the Swamimalai hill, this temple witnessed the epic battle where Lord Murugan, embodying righteousness, triumphed over the malevolent demon Surapadma. This victory etched Tiruttani's mark as one of the six sacred abodes of Lord Murugan, earning it a venerated place in Hindu mythology.

Architectural Elegance and Artistry

Delving into the temple's architectural marvel unveils a breathtaking ensemble of traditional South Indian design elements. The towering gopurams, adorned with intricate carvings narrating tales of valor and divinity, stand as a testament to the exquisite craftsmanship of ancient artisans. The sanctum sanctorum, embellished with sculpted depictions of Lord Murugan's exploits, exudes an aura of divine grandeur.

The Symbolism of 365 Steps



The pilgrimage to Tiruttani Temple entails ascending approximately 365 steps, each step symbolizing a day of the year. This ritualistic climb symbolizes devotees' spiritual journey, blending physical exertion with introspection and devotion. As pilgrims ascend, the rhythmic clang of bells and the aroma of incense create an atmosphere steeped in spirituality and anticipation.

Festivals and Spiritual Vibrancy

The Tiruttani Temple pulsates with life during festivals, notably the Brahmotsavam, a celebration that envelops the temple in a kaleidoscope of colors and fervor. Devotees from far and wide converge to witness the elaborate rituals, adorned processions, and vibrant ceremonies that infuse the temple with an unparalleled spiritual vibrancy.

Pilgrimage and Spiritual Sojourn

For pilgrims, Tiruttani Temple isn't merely a destination but a sanctum where they seek solace, divine blessings, and a deeper connection with Lord Murugan. The hilltop location, offering panoramic vistas of the surrounding landscape, provides a serene backdrop for introspection and spiritual rejuvenation.

Cultural Heritage and Symbolism

Tiruttani Temple, a microcosm of Tamil Nadu's cultural heritage, encapsulates the essence of the region's art, history, and spirituality. Its architectural opulence and mythological significance serve as a testament to the rich cultural tapestry woven over centuries.

Religious Tourism and Universal Appeal

As one of the Arupadaiveedu, Tiruttani Temple exerts a magnetic pull on religious tourists seeking a profound spiritual experience. Its amalgamation of history, devotion, and scenic beauty captivates not only devout pilgrims but also curious travelers seeking a glimpse into India's spiritual legacy.

Sacred Rituals and Devotion



The daily rituals at Tiruttani Temple, from the elaborate abhishekam to the rhythmic chanting of hymns, create an atmosphere resonating with divine sanctity. Devotees partake in these rituals with unwavering devotion, seeking blessings and divine intervention.

Lord Murugan: The Divine Icon

At the heart of Tiruttani Temple lies the sanctum where Lord Murugan resides, portrayed in all his splendor and grace. Devotees flock here to seek the deity's blessings, drawn by the tales of valor, wisdom, and victory associated with Lord Murugan.

Transcending through Temple Environs

The tranquil ambiance enveloping Tiruttani Temple transcends mere physical surroundings. Visitors find themselves immersed in a realm where spirituality converges with serenity, offering a sanctuary for inner reflection and a chance to forge a deeper connection with the divine.

Conclusion:

The Tiruttani Temple perched atop the Swamimalai hill in Tamil Nadu, stands as more than just a sanctuary of worship; it's a testament to the enduring spirit of faith, heritage, and divine grace. Steeped in mythology and historical significance, this sacred abode of Lord Murugan narrates tales of valor, victory, and unwavering devotion.

As devotees ascend the 365 symbolic steps, they embark on a transformative journey, weaving together physical exertion with spiritual introspection. The architectural elegance of the temple, adorned with intricate carvings and towering gopurams, bears witness to the exquisite craftsmanship of a bygone era, preserving the cultural heritage of Tamil Nadu.

Throughout the year, the Tiruttani Temple radiates with the vibrancy of festivals like the Brahmotsavam, where devout pilgrims and curious travelers alike are embraced by the fervor of colorful rituals and soul-stirring ceremonies.

Pilgrims arrive seeking not just the blessings of Lord Murugan but also solace amidst the serene ambiance and panoramic vistas that envelop the temple. The rituals and daily observances here foster an environment of sanctity and devotion, nurturing a deeper connection with the divine.

Tiruttani Temple transcends the realms of religious tourism; it's a haven where spirituality meets culture, drawing seekers from distant lands to immerse themselves in the timeless legacy of Hindu mythology and devotion.

So, as the echoes of hymns and the scent of incense linger in the air, Tiruttani Temple stands tall, inviting all to partake in its timeless tale—a narrative woven with threads of faith, history, and an unwavering belief in the triumph of good over evil.

Embark on a pilgrimage to Tiruttani Temple—a sanctum where the past and the present converge, offering a glimpse into the eternal grace and spiritual legacy that continue to inspire hearts and souls.

Ref: tirittanimurugan.hrce.in.gov.in

Sri Murugan Temple, Thiruttani

Literary Background



Literary background

In Tirupupugazh, written by Arunagirinathar, one of the famous devotional literatures, it is stated that Lord Muruga married Valli in this Thiruthalam and sat on this hill as the fifth abode of worship. Kachiyapar in his Kanda Purana mentions that, like a lotus among flowers, Ganges among rivers, Kanchipuram among places, Thirutanigai is the best among mountains.

Structure

Structure Name - Stone Structure

King`s Name - Chozha & Vijayanaga Kingdom

Century - 9th Century

Structure Details - Sanctum sanctorum, Arthamandapam are proof of Dravidian architecture, Maha Mandapam has components of Upanam, Jagati, Mupattaik Kumudam, Kandam, in its Vimana. Karuvarai is square in shape. The temple was built during the Chola period and expanded during the Vijayanagara Empire. The second holy corridor has magnificent stone pillars with carvings.

Towers

Eastern Rajagopuram

Tower Name - Eastern raja gopuram

Constructor Name - Various donors

No.of Statues & Tiers - 9

Lightning Arrester - Yes

Century - 20th - 21th Century

Tower Description - In the eastern side of the temple, there is a 9 tier Rajagopuram in later Artistic style. It is a testament to the architecture of South Indian temples. Another tower located on the west side dates back to the Vijayanagara Empire period.

Halls and Sculpture

Sculpture Subject - Stone

Material Type - Stone

Location - Sanctorium

Sculpture Type - God

Century - 9th Century

King`s Period - Cholan

Sculpture Details - Embossed sculptures on the pillars in the second praharam and carved sculptures on the vimanas are beautiful in this temple.

ICON - The Utsavar Thirumeni in the worship of this temple is the Thirumeni with Murugan Valli and Deivanai and Arumughan Valli and Deivanai with Peacock. This Thirumeni belongs to the Vijayanagara period.

Shrines and Deities

Sculpture Subject - Stone

Material Type - Stone

Location - Sanctorium

Sculpture Type - God

Century - 9th Century

King`s Period - Cholan

Sculpture Details - Embossed sculptures on the pillars in the second praharam and carved sculptures on the vimanas are beautiful in this temple.

ICON - The Utsavar Thirumeni in the worship of this temple is the Thirumeni with Murugan Valli and Deivanai and Arumughan Valli and Deivanai with Peacock. This Thirumeni belongs to the Vijayanagara period.

Subshrines Name - Prahara Sannadhis

Popular Name - Thanigai Malai

Vimana Type - -

Sanctorum Shape - Square Shape

Speciality - Others

Subshrines Details - The first Praharam has separate shrines for Valli, Deivanai, Bhairava, Chandikeswarar and Bala Subramaniyar. Pillaiyar, Bala Subramaniar and Vishnu Durga are located in the Maadam. Ekambaranathar, Arunachaleswarar, Arthanareeswarar, Kumareswarar, Arumugar, Abadsakaya Vinayagar, Navaveeras are in the second praharam. Near the holy flagpole, there is the Prasannakadhareeswarar shrine and the Uma Maheswarar shrine is on the western side.



Kumbabishekam



Consecration Date - 07/02/2011

Title Description - Kudamuzhukku.

Consecration Detail - In 1986, 2003 and 2011 Thiruppani works were carried out and Kudamuzhukku ceremony was held.

Temple Speciality

Temple Specialty - Historical

Title Description - 5th Padai Veedu

Speciality Description - Subramaniyar - Thiruthanigai Murugan is in the form of Gnanashakitahar. On the right hand of Thanigai Murugan is Gnanavel, the power of three powers. His left hand is on his thigh. Murugan is beautifully standing alone without a peacock.

Sandalwood grinding stone - There is a wonderful large sandalwood stone for grinding the sandalwood mixture used for Muruga. It is stated in Purana that Devendran gave this stone as a gift to the Goddess Deivanai. This sandalwood is used as a medicine for the devotees as an offering called Thirupada Sandanam.

Airavatham - Indras vehicle, Airavatham, the elephant, given by Indra as a gift during the marriage of Deivanayammai, Airavatham is located near the flagpole looking at Indraloka..

During Adikrithigai, Special Flower kavadi Prayer takes place continuously for Five days.

Thirupugazh Thirupadi Thiruvizha is celebrated for 365 tirupadis to mark one year of the festival on 31st December, 1st January of every year and it is enjoyed by thousands of devotees.

Facilities for devotees

S.No. ↑ ↓	Facility Name ↑ ↓	Facility Location ↑ ↓
1	Information Centre	Hill Temple
2	Vehicle Parking	1. Near R. C. C Mandapam and 2. Padachetty kulam Opposite At Hill Temple
3	Marriage Hall	Near Thanigai Illam Cottages, Sannathi Street
4	Karunai Illam	Tiruttani
5	Thulabharam Facility	Hill Temple Near Kodimaram
6	Tonsure Facility	1. Hill Temple, 2. Nagavedu chathram tonsuring shed, near Thanigai illam, 3. Eswaran Temple tonsuring shed, near Saravana poigai, 4. Tonsuring shed in Stepway near Saravana poigai.
7	Library Facility	Tiruttani, Dr.Radhakrishnan Street,
8	Battery Car	Hill Temple
9	Hospital	Hill Temple
10	Drinking Water R.O.	Temple premises places, Thanigai Illam and Karthikeyan Illam Cottages and at the information center

Location - Nearest places

S.No.	Location Type	Location	Distance (KM)
1	Airport	Chennai Meenambakkam	87
2	Bus Stand	Tiruttani Bus Stand	2
3	Hospital	Government Hospital, Tiruttani	3
4	Railway Station	Tiruttani Railway station	3
5	Railway Station	Arakkonam Junction	13
6	State Head Quarters	Chennai	87

Executive officer - address, phone, email etc

Tmt. Ramani K

Joint Commissioner / Exec.officer

Arulmigu Subramanyaswamy Temple

Sannathi Street,

Malaikoil, Tiruttani,

Tiruvallur - 631209.

Landline No. : 044-27885247

Email : tiruttanigaimurugan[at]gmail[dot]com

Contact info - Address, Phone, email etc

Arulmigu Subramanyaswamy Temple

Sannathi Street,

Malaikoil, Tiruttani,

Tiruvallur - 631209.

Phone Number : 044-27885247

Email : tiruttanigaimurugan[at]gmail[dot]com

Temple Timings

Nadal Opening Time
06:00 AM IST - IST
IST - 08:45 PM IST
Nadal Closing Time
The temple remains open for public dharshan on all days from morning 6.00 AM and it remains open upto 8.45 Pm, without any break. Even during the time of ritual bathing (abishekam) of the deity, special paid dharshan is allowed. Darshan timings are subject to change during festivals.

Poojas and their charges

Pooja Details		
Show 10 entries		Search...
S.No.	Pooja Name	Pooja Timings
1	Viswaroopo Pooja (A Special Arathi is shown to Palliyarai swamy and then Thiruvamuthootal is given to swamy and then Moolavar Dheeparathanai will be done. (Pooja timings are subject to change during festival))	05:45 AM to 06:00 AM IST
2	Kalasandhi pooja (Rituals like holy bathing, decoration tiruvamuthootal are performed for the idols during poojas. Then devotees will have dharshan. (Pooja timings are subject to change during festival))	08:00 AM to 09:00 AM IST
3	Uchikkala Pooja (Rituals like holy bathing, decoration tiruvamuthootal are performed for the idols during poojas. Then devotees will have dharshan. (Pooja timings are subject to change during festival))	12:00 PM to 01:00 PM IST
4	Sayaraksha Pooja (Evening) (Rituals like holy bathing, decoration tiruvamuthootal are performed for the idols during poojas. Then devotees will have dharshan. (Pooja timings are subject to change during festival))	05:00 PM to 06:00 PM IST
5	Ardhajama Pooja (Tiruvamuthootal and Deeparathanai will be done for the Moolavar. (Pooja timings are subject to change during festival))	06:00 PM to 06:15 PM IST
6	Palliyarai Pooja (After Arthajama Pooja, devotees are allowed for Moolavar darshan. Then the Palliyara Urchavar is put into palanquin service, the swing service and pooja rituals are performed. (Pooja timings are subject to change during festival))	08:45 PM to 09:00 PM IST

Service - Fee Details			
Show 10 entries		Search...	
S.No.	Fees Description	Remarks	Fees
1	Silver Peacock Vaganam and other Vagana Urchavam		8000.00
2	Gold Kavasam		1000.00
3	Sahasranama Archanai		750.00
4	Sandal Kappu		10000.00
5	Thirukkalayana Urchavam		4000.00
6	Gold Chariot		3500.00
7	Panchamirtha abishegam		2000.00
8	Silver Kavasam Sathupadi		1000.00
9	Kedaya Urchavam		1500.00

Donation info

Please go to the website to donate. Viz.(<https://tiruttanimurugan.hrce.tn.gov.in/>)

Ref: tirumala.online

Tiruttani Subramanya Swamy Temple Details

Updated: May 11, 2024



Tiruttani Subramanya Swamy Temple, located in the picturesque town of Tiruttani, Tamil Nadu, India, stands as a majestic tribute to Lord Subramanya, also known as Lord Murugan, the divine son of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati. This revered pilgrimage site attracts devotees from all corners of the country seeking divine blessings, spiritual solace, and the fulfillment of their wishes. Join us on a journey to explore the legend, architecture, worship rituals, and vibrant festivals that make this temple an extraordinary spiritual heaven.

The Legend and Origin: Unfolding the Mythology

In Hindu mythology, the Tiruttani Arulmigu Subramanya Swami Temple holds a significant place in the legend of Lord Murugan. After defeating the demon Tarakasura, Lord Murugan with Valli, a tribal princess, in the nearby Vallimalai hills. To seek Lord Indra's blessings for a joyous married life, Lord Murugan performed penance on the Tiruttani hills, leading to the establishment of this sacred temple. With a history spanning several centuries, this temple has become a cherished heritage site in Tamil Nadu.

Architecture and Layout: A Glimpse of Dravidian Splendor

The Thiruthani Subramanya Swami Temple showcases the resplendent Dravidian architectural style, characterized by intricately carved gopurams (towering gateways), mandapams (pillared halls), and exquisite sculptures. As devotees enter through the magnificent main entrance gopuram, they are greeted by vibrant colors and intricate designs. The temple's layout features multiple prakarams (circumambulatory paths) encircling the sanctum sanctorum, allowing devotees to perform circumambulation (pradakshina) around the deity. Adding to the temple's serene ambiance is the sacred tank, Saravana Poigai, creating a truly spiritual atmosphere.

The Deity and Worship: Embracing Divine Grace

At the heart of the Tiruttani Temple resides the presiding deity, Lord Subramanya, depicted in a majestic standing posture with his consorts Valli and Devasena on either side. Adorned with various ornaments, the deity symbolizes divine attributes and valiant nature. Daily rituals and poojas at the temple include:

1. **Abhishekam:** A sacred ceremonial bath of the deity using milk, honey, and sandalwood paste, representing purification and devotion.
2. **Kavadi Pooja:** Devotees offer Kavadi, a traditional offering carried on their shoulders, symbolizing devotion and penance to Lord Murugan.
3. **Saravana Poigai Theertham:** Devotees take a holy dip in the temple's sacred tank, seeking blessings and cleansing themselves of sins.

Festivals and Celebrations at Tiruttani

Throughout the year, the Tiruttani Temple comes alive with vibrant festivals, attracting throngs of devotees. Some of the prominent celebrations include:

1. **Brahmotsavam:** An annual 10-day festival featuring colorful processions of Lord Murugan on different vahanas (vehicles).
2. **Skanda Sashti:** A six-day festival commemorating Lord Murugan's victory over the demon Surapadma, marked with special prayers and poojas.
3. **Thai Poosam:** Celebrated during the Tamil month of Thai, this festival witnesses grand celebrations and a large gathering of devotees.

Tiruttani Subramanya Swamy Temple Timings

Timings	Activities
Morning	Temple Opens: 6:00 AM or 6:30 AM
	Morning Poojas and Abhishekam: 6:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Midday Break	(Temple remains closed): 12:00 PM to 4:00 PM
Afternoon	Evening Poojas: 4:00 PM to 7:00 PM
Night	Evening Darshan: 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM or 9:00 PM
	Temple Closes: 8:30 PM to 9:30 PM

Tiruttani Murugan Pooja Timings

s.no	Pooja name	Pooja timings
1.	Viswaroopa Pooja (A Special Arathi is shown to Palliyarai Swamy and then Thiruvamuthootal is given to Swamy and then Moolavar Dheeparathanai will be done. (Pooja timings are subject to change during the festival)	5:45 am to 6:00 am
2.	Kalasandhi pooja (Rituals like holy bathing, decoration tiruvamuthootal are performed for the idols during poojas. Then devotees will have darshan. (Pooja timings are subject to change during the festival)	8:00 am to 9:00 am
3.	Uchikkala Pooja (Rituals like holy bathing, decoration tiruvamuthootal are performed for the idols during poojas. Then devotees will have darshan. (Pooja timings are subject to change during the festival)	12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

4.	Sayaraksha Pooja (Evening) (Rituals like holy bathing, decoration tiruvamuthootal are performed for the idols during poojas. Then devotees will have darshan. (Pooja timings are subject to change during the festival)	5:00 pm to 6:00 pm
5.	Ardhajama Pooja (Tiruvamudhootal and Deeparathanai will be done for the Moolavar. (Pooja timings are subject to change during the festival)	6:00 pm to 6:15 pm
6.	Palliyarai Pooja (After Arthajama Pooja, devotees are allowed for Moolavar darshan. Then the Palliyara Urchavar is put into palanquin service, the swing service and pooja rituals are performed. (Pooja timings are subject to change during the festival)	8:45 pm to 9:00 pm

Tiruttani Subramanya Swamy Temple Pooja Cost

pooja	price
Panjamiruthia Abisegam	Rs 1500/-
Thirukalyanam urchavam	Rs 2000/-
Sandhanakaapau	Rs: 4000/-
Thanga Kavasam	Rs:500/-
Kedayam Urchavam	Rs:1000/-
Golden Chariot	Rs:2000/-

Velli Thear Urchavam	Rs:3,500/-
Velli Myil and Other Vehicle	Rs:3,500/-
Sahacranama Archanai	Rs:400/-
Monthly Kriuthikai Ticket(1 year)	Rs:500/-
Annadhannam(Per Day)	Rs:2,500/-
Annadhannam (Yearly Once)	Rs:25,000/-

Conclusion: A Divine Journey Awaits

The Thiruthani Arulmigu Subramanya Swami Temple holds a special place in the hearts of Lord Murugan's devotees. A visit to this sacred abode promises a transformative experience, offering devotees a chance to immerse themselves in devotion and spiritual bliss. With its rich history, magnificent architecture, and vibrant festivities, this temple continues to be a beacon of spirituality and religious significance in Tamil Nadu. Come, embark on a divine journey, and leave with renewed faith and blessings that transcend time.

Ref: [tripadvisor.in](https://www.tripadvisor.in)

Thiruthani Murugan Temple



Sandeep K

Mumbai, India • 96 contributions

👍 0 ...



Divine experience. But bus services to the temple need to improve

Dec 2022 • Family

The experience in the temple was good. Finished the darshan in roughly 1 hour. However reaching the temple was a bit tedious for me. I had taken a bus from Tirupati which took 2 hours to reach Tiruthani bypass. There was a big traffic jam in Tiruthani town and to travel 4kms from Bypass to Tiruthani bus stand took an hour. There are bus services from near the bus stand to the temple which is located on the hill. We had to wait nearly 30 mins for this bus. When the bus came it was total chaos. Everyone simply rushed to get onto the bus (there was no queue system). The old ppl and children really struggled. The bus was pretty crowded. The journey to the temple took only 15-20 mins. However given the chaos on the way back we simply took an auto which cost Rs 120. Luckily the traffic jam had also cleared by then and so the return journey to Tirupati was smooth. There are trains to Tiruthani - so you can explore the same as well.

[Read less](#) ^

Written 18 December 2022

Comments by Visitors



Vaidyanathan B

Bengaluru, India • 186 contributions

👍 0 ...



Spiritual visit.

Nov 2024 • Couples

Thiruttani Murugan Temple, a famous Hindu temple is located in the town of Tiruttani, Tamil Nadu, India. (Thiruthani Hill, Thiruttani, Tamil Nadu 631209). The timings of this temple - 5.30am to 12.30pm, and 4pm to 8.30pm.

Thiruthani Murugan temple's Dravidian style architecture is so grandeur and beautiful. This temple is fifth of the six abodes of Lord Murugan (Arubadai Veedu). This temple is located on a hill named Thanigai hill and reached with 60 steps. The temple has a five-tiered gopuram and four precincts. There are several water bodies associated with the temple. The temple has two shrines, namely, Lord Murugan in the form of Shaktidharar and the second is Valli and Devasena. The special entry ticket costs Rs.100 per person, and on a normal day the time taken is about 2 hrs for the darshan.

We visited this temple in the first week of Nov 2024, had a very good darshan took blessings from Lord Murugan.

[Read less](#) ^



rameshcri2001

India • 1,515 contributions

👍 0 ...



Murugan temple

Mar 2022 • Friends

Thirutani murugan temple is one of the arupadai murugan ...from Chennai 60km ,from tirupathi to Thirupathi 60km...can go to temple by walk or four wheeler or two wheeler parking facilities available ,free darshan ,100rupeses darshan availble.normal crowd in week days .week end other special days crowd wil more



Written 2 April 2022



chandra

Hyderabad District, India • 11 contributions

👍 0 ...



Murugan temple review

Dec 2020

Sacred place. Glad to have Swamy darshan. Valli Deva sena sametha swamy is great pleasure to watch. One should visit to this sacred place for sure in life time

Written 6 December 2020



Mohan2013

Chennai (Madras), India • 1,888 contributions

👍 0 ...



Well maintained temple

Mar 2020 • Couples

Almost it's a biennial trip for us to go and worship this 6th abode of God Muruga. Temple situated on a hillock reachable by both road and steps. A new and huge tower Rajagopuram is now erected near the main entrance that has the footsteps route.

Had Great darshan during morning abhishekam of Deity by getting Rs200 ticket.



Written 15 March 2020



skypee

Bengaluru, India • 469 contributions

👍 0 ...



Om Skandaya Namah!

Dec 2019

One of the Aarupadai Veedu, this Temple, Tiruttani, is situated in a hill top and is near to Chennai. I had walked through Trituttani Hill Road instead of climbing the steps, which I wanted to do. Had a good Darshan as the Temple was less crowded due to eclipse.



Written 17 February 2020

**rasa006**

Chennai (Madras), India • 211 contributions

👍 1 ...

**This Lord Murugan Temple - 5th of 6 abodes- is famous among devotees.**

Jan 2020

We visited this temple many times in the past, now we went there on 18th Jan.2020 Saturday evening, expecting good crowd, because of long holiday season in Tamil Nadu due to Pongal. But the crowd was more than what we expected, many Iyapa Devotees on their return journey, came here for dharshan of Lord Muruga.

But we managed to get special Dharshan ticket during evening pooja-abishegam slot. This evening abishegam/pooja done everyday from 5.00pm to 6.15 pm. Details I give below. We had very good dharshan of Lord Muruga during abishegam and aarthi. Here Lord with HIS 2 concerts-Valli and Dhevanai. Dharshan at Uthsavar also was good.

Points to note:-

Temple open from 5.45am to 9.00pm No break.

1. If you wish you perform evening abishegam, it costs Rs.1500/- and 4 people were allowed for this.
2. If you want to have dharshan only during abishegam and evening pooja(sayarakshai), you can have with Rs.250/00 per head ticket, (children below 10 years free). We went for this on our visit. Only limited tickets issued due to paucity of space (just like in Palani Temple).

After all poojas and aarthi during this sayarakshai, please wait (not to get out hastily), you can go very near sanctum(sannidhanam) of Lord Subramania Swamy, can have close AND GOOD DHARSHAN, with vibuthi prasadam. THAT POINT TO NOTE.

3. On other timings - paid dharshan at Rs.25/-, 50,100 etc. Free dharshan also available, but always long wait. With children, it is bit difficult.

Caution:- Beware of monkeys, they are lot and lot in numbers, care to be taken when you come out of temple. They try to snatch whatever you have on your hand - puliyotharai prasadam, banana, coconut,.

[Read less](#) ^

Written 20 January 2020

**Srinivas_B06**

Tirupati, India • 48 contributions

👍 1 ...

**Divine abode of Lord Subrahmanya swamy**

Jan 2020

It is one of the Arupadaiveedu, the six holy abodes of Lord Subrahmanya swamy. Temple is located on hill can be reachable by ghat road or steps. We had Darshanam using 150/- rs ticket and there was no queue. Next day we booked Panchamritha Abhishekam (1500/-) at 5am. We booked ticket at temple seva ticket counter. Blessed to see Abhishekam to swamy. There are temples for Valli, Devasena, Kumareshwara, Shanmukha, Aapatsahaya Ganapathi inside temple.

Written 20 January 2020



sridharan2013

Bengaluru, India • 1,248 contributions

👍 0 ...



Lord Murugan temple on a hillock

Dec 2019

This temple is one of the famous arupadai veedugal (six temples dedicated to Lord Murugan in tamilnadu) located in Tiruttani town, this temple is on a hillock with a nice road. Huge parking facilities have been created for the pilgrims. Temple attracts lots of pilgrims and hence aborigines have made very good arrangements for regulating the queue. Pilgrims can opt for Dharshan queues on payment if they want to cut down time of waiting. The view of the Tiruttani town from the hill top is superb. Monkeys are plenty around the temple. Visiting this temple and having Dharshan of Lord Murugan is itself a divine experience.

Written 30 December 2019

Photos











































YouTube Videos

Thiruthani Murugan Temple (10 min):

https://youtu.be/teD0RyJpZk4?si=p5tUVm_Wl8LOSEN7

From Chennai to Thiruthani Murugan 3 - one day trip (4 min):

https://youtu.be/WpWwAKPgOk8?si=BpklaJ_awlJbQpCO

Thiruthani Murugan Temple (0.46 min):

<https://youtu.be/nDDp1wtbU-Y?si=lydcTDVHW8HY1hRh>

Thiruthani Murugan Temple - vlog (5 min):

<https://youtu.be/hTYgfcUXeZA?si=hgVjNhQnIBx0mUfM>

Thiruthani Murugan Temple crowd - NewsTzmil headlines (1 min):

<https://youtu.be/qxLIUXhzUek?si=UgR1Q1j6QvcSORmL>

Thiruthani Subramanya Swami Temple- Full tour video (8 min):

<https://youtu.be/n6dOXvGsw4U?si=LDjMNtVVzO-J37rQ>

Thiruthani Murugan Temple Darshan by Temple Bus (10 min):

<https://youtu.be/WPQ8yvZKOyU?si=V0dduvKVy8EB8Lzm>

Thiruthani Murugan Temple History in Tamil (12 min):

https://youtu.be/VUIREsQW1HE?si=pnF62lmq-khW_6bR

Thiruthani Subramanya Swami Temple (6 min):

<https://youtu.be/Baq7LUUtp1c?si=lrXbQETht9Dzj9lm>

Thiruthani Murugan Temple - NewsTamil 24x7 (29 min):

https://www.youtube.com/live/0QJEnN1Ro-A?si=MpBvCq_5oFkFh6lo

Thiruthani Murugan Temple- News18 Tamil Nadu(4min):

https://www.youtube.com/live/0QJEnN1Ro-A?si=MpBvCq_5oFkFh6lo

Thiruthani Murugan Temple Darshan (8 min):

https://www.youtube.com/live/0QJEnN1Ro-A?si=MpBvCq_5oFkFh6lo

Thiruthani Murugan Temple Tour and history (4 min):

<https://youtu.be/lp8VmnHSixU?si=pndBIIWILPmiACm4>

Adi Krihigai Reppam festival (0.42 min):

https://youtu.be/_oqNF6UsIRM?si=QD2dgKhwrpYsiGBf

Thiruthani Murugan Temple - 1000 year old temple (5 min):

https://youtu.be/CGheJO8weD4?si=IVQPnOy_BJgp4lup

Thiruthani Murugan Temple - vlog (9 min) :

<https://youtu.be/rOkKnror1tc?si=KSijmLyoWlr6Sep0>

Thiruthani Murugan Temple - vlog (19 min):

<https://youtu.be/rOkKnror1tc?si=KSijmLyoWlr6Sep0>

Adi Krihigai festival 2024 (1 min):

<https://youtu.be/FB4YGL036dA?si=OMpzw2TcPY7d1li5>



ॐ स॒ह ना॑ ववतु । स॒ह नो॑ भुनक्तु । स॒ह वी॒र्यं॑ करवावहै । ते॒ज॒स्विना॒वधी॑तमस्तु मा वि॒द्विषा॒वहै॑ ॥ (3)

ॐ शान्तिः॒ शान्तिः॒ शान्तिः॑ ॥ (3)

Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar

**Arulmigu Solaimalai Murugan Temple,
Pazhamudircholai, Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India**



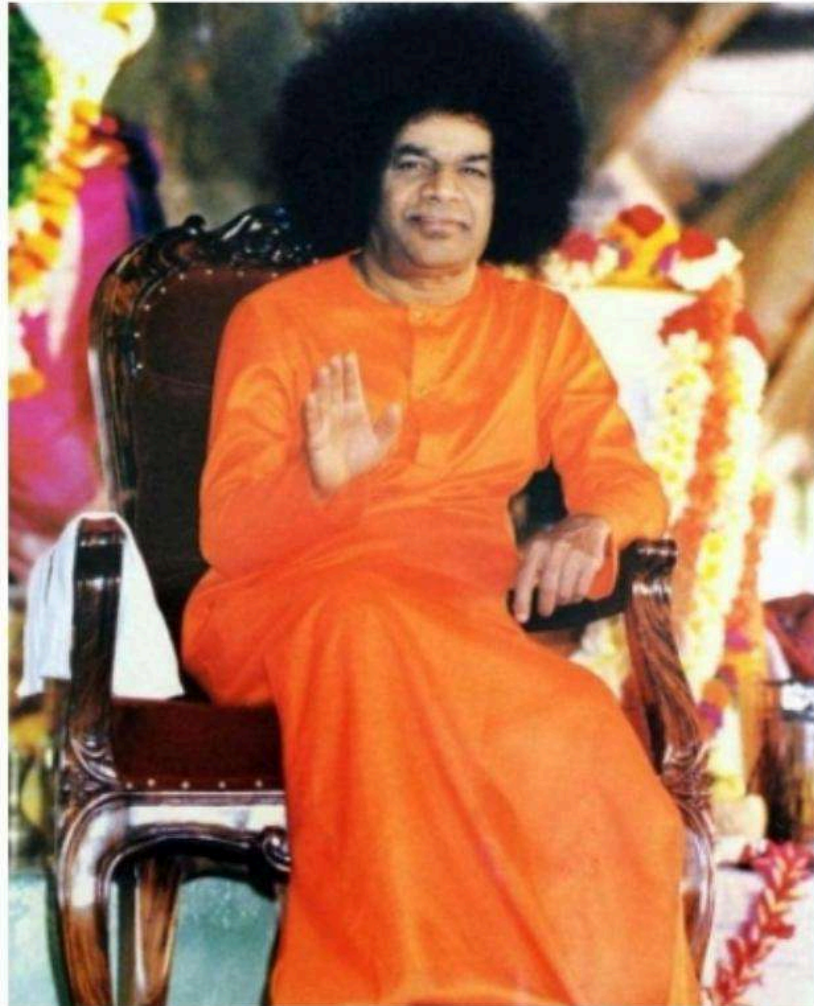
**Compiled by
Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar**

formerly:

- (i) Professor, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering,
St. Joseph Engineering College,
Vamanjoor, Mangalore – 575 028, India
- (ii) Principal, Vivekananda College of Engineering and Technology,
Puttur (D.K.) – 574 203, India
- (iii) Head, Dept. of Mechanical Engineering,
Fr. Conceicao Rodrigues Institute of Technology,
Vashi, Navi Mumbai 400 703, India
- (iv) Senior Scientific Officer and Head,
Cryogenics Section,
Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, Trombay, Mumbai, India
and
Centre for Advanced Technology, Indore 452013, India

DEDICATION

**This work is lovingly dedicated at the lotus feet of:
Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba**



**There is only ONE caste -The Caste of Humanity
There is only ONE religion –The Religion of Love
There is only ONE language –The Language of the Heart
There is only ONE God –He is Omnipresent**

.....Bhagavan Sri Sathya Sai Baba

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PREFACE



This free ebook gives briefly info about: “**Arulmigu Solaimalai Murugan Temple, Pazhamudircholai, Madurai**”

Arulmigu Solaimalai Murugan Temple is a Hindu temple, located about 25 kilometres north of Madurai, atop a hill covered with dense forests. One of the six important abodes (*Ārupaṭaivīṭukaḷ*) of the deity Murugan located in Tamil Nadu. Pazhamudircholai is located upon a hill and surrounded by a dense forest. According to legend, the forest was the home of the goddess Valli. The temple possesses shrines dedicated to the deities Murugan, Valli, Devasena, and Ganesha

Details of Temple History, legends, festivals, deities, Timings, address, map, phone number and how to reach there, temple speciality, architecture, dress code, accommodation and top hotels nearby, darshan and Pooja Timings, details of poojas and their cost, contact info, donation info, imilar places, nearby places to visit, comments by visitors,..etc are given.

Many good photos of the temple, murals and paintings, and related activities etc are given.

Links to YouTube Videos give videos relating to the temple, its legend and history, festivals, Temple travel vlogs, travel guides, temple tour,..etc

Acknowledgements:

Many of my friends and relatives have actively encouraged me in my attempt to compile this free ebook. I sincerely thank them for their support.

My wife Kala has always encouraged and supported me in all my literary works, sacrificing much of her time. I express my deep appreciation to her.

I have drawn from many references, and YouTube as mentioned in the text.

Finally, I express my immense gratitude to Sri Sathya Sai Baba for His Grace and blessings, prompting me to initiate, continue and complete this work.

Dr. M. Thirumaleshwar,
January 11, 2025
Email: tmuliya@rediffmail.com

Ref: Wikipedia

Murugan Temple, Pazhamudircholai



Main gopuram of the temple

The **Arulmigu Solaimalai Murugan Temple** is a Hindu temple, located about 25 kilometres north of Madurai, atop a hill covered with dense forests. One of the six important abodes (*Ārupaṭaivīṭukaḷ*) of the deity Murugan located in Tamil Nadu, it is close to the Vishnu temple of Alagar Kovil.

The temple is maintained and administered by the Hindu Religious and Charitable Endowments Department of the Government of Tamil Nadu.

Description

Pazhamudircholai is located upon a hill and surrounded by a dense forest. According to legend, the forest was the home of the goddess Valli. The temple possesses shrines dedicated to the deities Murugan, Valli, Devasena, and Ganesha.

As one of the six sacred abodes of Murugan, hymns composed in the temple's praise are featured in ancient Tamil texts such as the Ettutokai, the Pattupattu, and the Cilappatikaram.



Main gopuram of the temple from a distance

Ref: maduraitourism.co.in

Pazhamudircholai / Pazhamudhir Solai Temple in Madurai

Located 25 km away from Madurai, Pazhamudhircholai is one among the 6 prominent abodes of Lord Muruga, called as Arupadaiveedu. Others important abodes of Lord Muruga are Thiruparankundram Subramanya Swamy Temple, Palani Dandayudhapani Swami Temple, Swamimalai Swaminatha Swami Temple, Tiruchendur Senthil Andavar Temple and Tiruttani Subramanya Swamy Temple. On the top of a hill with forests around, it is quite close to the temple of Lord Vishnu Azhagar Kovil.



Lord Muruga is seen here with his two divine consorts Goddesses Valli and Deivayanai. Devotees visit here to seek lord's blessings. Many devotees come here for wedding, child and even academic blessings. The scenic beauty of the place also attracts many visitors here.

Legend of Pazhamudhir Solai near Madurai

According to a popular legend associated with this temple, a great Tamil poet Avvaiyar, who was also an ardent devotee of Lord Muruga was tested by Lord here under a tree near the temple. This tree is still being worshipped with the devotees who come to visit the temple. As per the legend, Avvaiyar, while travelling under hot sun had taken refuge under a fruit tree. She didn't have anything to eat or drink while she rested under this tree. It is then Lord Muruga, in the guise of a young boy, appeared in front of her and asked her if she wanted roasted or unroasted fruits. Being highly well-informed herself, Avvaiyar sneered at the idea of roasted fruits and asked the boy to just pick unroasted fruits for her. Later she picked up the fallen tree. As she was blowing off the dust from the fruits, the young boy asked if she was cooling down her roasted fruits. Hearing such an intelligent play of words and poetic knowledge by a small village boy left her astonished. She when realising it is not something common, asked the boy to let her know his true identity. After her fervent pleading, Lord Muruga appeared and blessed her.

Image Gallery





Timings of Pazhamudhir Solai near Madurai

Visiting timings of Pazhamudhir Solai are from 6 AM to 6 PM.

Best time to visit, Festivals, How to reach

Although the best time to visit this temple or to plan a [Madurai Tour](#) is round the year, visiting during various festivals can be an added advantage as the temple gets filled with vivacity along with spiritual aura.

Some of the popular festivals at this temple are Panguni Uthiram which is celebrated in March every year; Kandha Sashti-Kanta Shasti Vratam; Aadi Krithigai and Vaikasi Visakam.

Reaching Pazhamudhir Solai/ Pazhamudircholai- Pazhamudhir Solai is located at a distance of 25 km from Madurai. There are buses run by temple administration to the temple as well. From Madurai, tourists can either hire a car or take a bus till here. There are buses from foothills to the temple every 20 minutes. Devotees also go by two wheelers via the motor-able road which goes up to the hill.

Ref: holidify.com

Pazhamudhir Solai



Overview

Pazhamudhir Solai is a beautiful temple created in the memory of Lord Subramaniya who is worshipped by several people in southern India. It has great sculptures of Lord Subramaniya carved in wood and marble and is a wonderful temple with giant steps in front of it.

People worship the temple by moving across the periphery several times, with the hope that their wish would come true. It is the giant temple of Lord Subhramaniya in southern India and one of the most beautiful too. It is located on the hills of Azharar koil and falls in Madurai in Tamil nadu.

Similar places



Madurai Meenakshi
Amman Temple



Alagar Koil



Tirupparankundram
Murugan temple



ISKCON Madurai



Koodal Azhagar
Temple



Mariamman
Teppakulam



Thirumalai Nayakar
Mahal



Gandhi Museum

Nearby Places



Alagar Koil



Mariamman
Teppakulam



Goripalayam Dargah



Madurai Meenakshi
Amman Temple



Vandiyur Mariamman
Teppakulam



Gandhi Museum





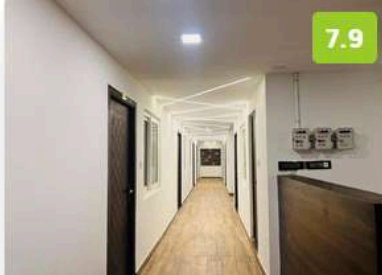



Thirumalai Nayakar
Mahal



Banana Market

Top Hotels Near Pazhamudhir Solai

 <p>JC Residency Madurai ★★★ 📍 Madurai City Centre 📏 8 kms ₹ 5,500 onwards</p>	 <p>Avenue 11 Premium Stays Madurai... 📍 Madurai City Centre 📏 7 kms ₹ 4,312 onwards</p>	 <p>Courtyard by Marriott Madurai... 📍 Madurai City Centre 📏 8 kms ₹ 8,999 onwards</p>
 <p>Fortune Pandiyan Hotel, Madurai - Member ITC'... 📍 Madurai City Centre 📏 8 kms ₹ 6,999 onwards</p>	 <p>David Residency ★★★ 📍 Madurai City Centre 📏 7 kms ₹ 2,138 onwards</p>	 <p>Viswa Residency by Azalea... 📍 Madurai City Centre 📏 6 kms ₹ 2,400 onwards</p>

Palamutircōlai

Pazhamudircholai is situated 19 kilometres from the temple town of Madurai. The place is full of natural beauty and sylvan surroundings. This hill is also known as Vrishabhadri or Idabagiri. At the foot of the hill is situated Azhakar Kovil, which is one among the 108 divya desams sanctified by the hymns of Azhwars sung in praise of the Vishnu enshrined in this temple. Atop the hill Lord Muruga stands majestically in the temple as the Lord of the Hills popularly known as *Kurinji Nilakkizhavan* in Tamil. The temple of Pazhamudircholai can be reached by a motorable road leading to the hill.

Pazhamutircōlai is mentioned as the sixth of Lord Murugan's [Āru Patai Vidukal](#), the six holiest Murugan shrines described by Cankam poet **Nakkīrar** in his poem [Tirumurukāruppatai](#). Regarding the identity of the sixth major site, there is no consensus among scholars and many local temples are ascribed the distinction.

Most scholars, priests and devotees identify Palamutircōlai with the shrine of Palamuthircholai, twelve miles north of Madurai in the Alagar Hills, above the Alagarcoil Vishnu temple. While this temple is not as large or bustling as the other five recognized shrines, it is just as incredible to visit.

This shrine is located on the northern outskirts of Madurai in a pleasant wooded hill not far from Alagar Visnu Kovil, a fortified temple complex revered as one of the 108 abodes of Vishnu glorified by the hymns of the Alwars. At the top of the hill, is Noopura Ganga, a perennial waterfall with a temple dedicated to Rākkayi Amman. The Nūpura Ganga atop the hill is said to have originated from the anklet of Tirumal or Visnu and hence the name of the spring.

It is said that sitting in the madavi mandapa near the spring Ilangovadigal wrote one of the five Mahakavyas in Tamil, viz., Cilappatikaram. Even today the place is very fertile with many trees and different flora and fauna, a standing testimony to the vivid description of the place's natural beauty as found in [Tirumurugattrupadai](#) of Nakkeerar.

Though the sthala is of ancient origin, the temple as in existence today was constructed only recently. From days of yore Vel has been worshipped as the moolavar or main deity. The idol of Lord Muruga in a standing posture has a single face and four hands with Valli and Teyvayanai on both sides. The Vel made up of stone is of special significance and is worshipped with a great veneration by devotees.

The sthala vriksha is a rose apple tree. The fruits of this tree ripen during Skanda Sasti festival. The temple that was in existence during Sangam period no longer existed in Arunagirinatha's time. The recently constructed temple is considered as Pazhamutircōlai and worshipped by the devotees. It is needless to say that it is one of the six abodes of Lord Muruga very extensively praised and described by Nakkeerar in Thirumurugattrupadai.

Text courtesy of [Vellayapettai Ra. Krishnan](#).

Photos



Two views of Paḷamutircōlai Tirukkovil



Paḷamutircōlai Swami



Entrance to Aḷagar Viṣṇu Kovil, Madurai

Watch this Video:

<https://youtu.be/zYXDib5KAgu>

Pazhamudircholai Murugan Temple



Introduction

Pazhamudircholai is situated 19 kilometers from the temple town of Madurai. Lush hills and forests surround the place. This hill is also called Vrishabhadri or Idabagiri. Pazhamudircholai is mentioned as the sixth of Murugan's AruPadai Veedugal (six holiest Murugan shrines) as described by Sangham poet Nakkeerar in Tirumurukarruppatai. Though the sthala is ancient in origin, the temple in existence today was constructed only recently. Muruga's Vel has been worshipped as the moolavar (main deity). The idol of Muruga (Jnana Shakti) in a standing posture has a single face and four hands with Valli (Iccha Shakti) and Devayanai (Kriya Shakti) on both sides. The Vel is made of stone and is worshipped with great veneration by devotees. Arunagirinathar also sings praises of this shrine in his Tiruppukal. Arunagirinathar sang 16 Tiruppukal psalms to Pazhamudircholai Muruga.

Legend of Pazhamudircholai Murugan Temple

The most famous legend is of the great Tamil Poetess Avvaiyar, who experienced the darshan of Murugan as a ten-year-old boy at this temple.

Avvaiyar had been walking for a long time, and was thirsty and hungry, while Murugan, in the form of a small boy, stood on a Jamun (Naaval) tree. Murugan asked if she would like to eat some fruits. The incredibly knowledgeable Avvaiyar was excited and said that she wanted some.

The boy asked if she wanted roasted fruit or unroasted fruit. Avvaiyar was a little confused as no fruit is available in the cooked form. Being tired and not wanting to argue with the ignorant child, she asked for unroasted fruit. The boy shook the tree, and many fruits fell down. Avvaiyar collected them all.

Since the fruits were coated with sand, she blew on them to remove it. Looking at this, the boy said that only the roasted fruits are hot and asked why she needed to blow on the fruit.

Avvaiyar was humbled by the clever wordplay of the little boy. However, she wondered if he was really what he seemed to be and asked him openly. Murugan then revealed himself, and Avvaiyar bowed before him with great reverence and asked him to bless her with success in her endeavor to obtain endless knowledge.

Blessings of worshipping at Pazhamudircholai Murugan Temple:

Even if one possesses wealth, to lead a healthy, disease-free life, he should visit Pazhamudircholai. Arunagirinatha says in his hymn, that Muruga would bless with health and wealth everyone who worships him.

Festivals celebrated

The festivals celebrated are :- Tamil New Year, Vaikasi Vishakha, Aadi Krithikai, Aavani Pooram, and Pradosham. **The most famous one is Skanda Sashti**- the day where Muruga defeated the demons and liberated the Gods.

Timings of Temple

Morning: 5 am to 12 pm

Evening: 6 pm to 8 pm

How to reach

By Air

Madurai Airport is the closest to the temple.

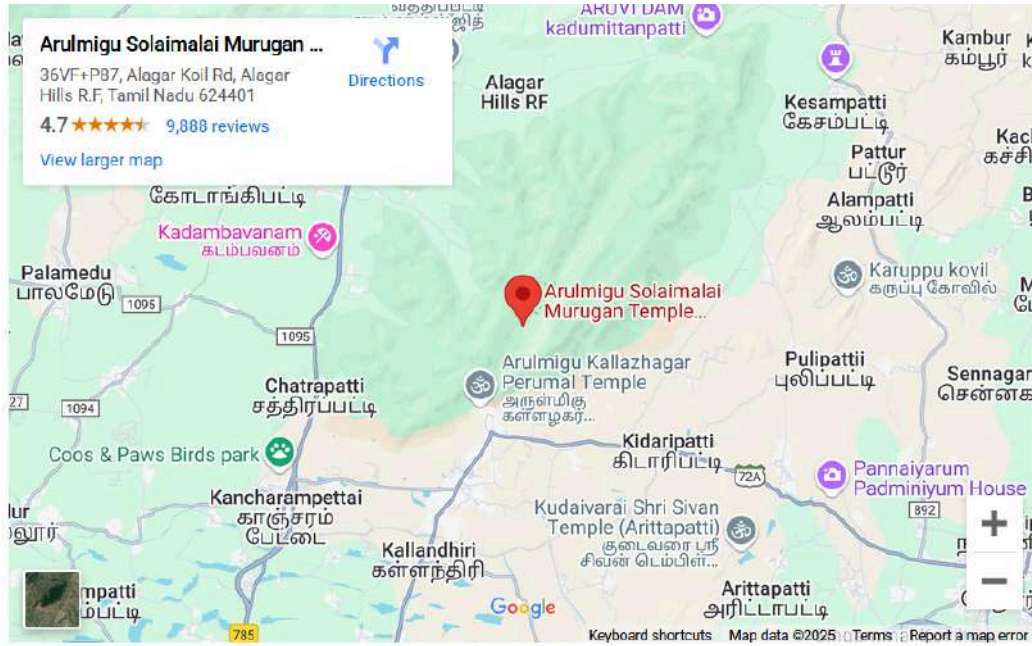
By Rail

Madurai Railway station is the nearest to the temple

By Road

From Madurai, one can catch the bus with route number 44 to reach it. There is a shuttle from the foot of the hill to the temple, every 20 minutes. It takes roughly 15 minutes (3.4 km) to reach the temple.

Map



Ref: casualwalker.com

Pazhamudircholai / Pazhamudircholai Murugan Temple

Recently visited [Pazhamudircholai](#), Lord Murugan hill temple in [Madurai](#). This temple is one of the six Arupadaiveedu – holy shrines of Lord Murugan. This is the only temple in Arupadaiveedu, Lord Murugan is worshiped along with his consorts Valli and Devayani. At the top of this hill, Raakkayi Amman temple is located along with a natural spring called 'Noopura Ganga'. Taking a bath in this spring water is said to fulfill the desires of the people and so it is also called as 'Ishta Siddhi'. This temple is very close to the famous [Azhagar Kovil / Alagar Koyil – Lord Vishnu temple](#), one of the 108 divya desams.

Travel Tips to Pazhamudircholai / Pazhamudircholai Murugan Temple

Address : Alagar Hills R.F., Tamil Nadu 624401

Phone: 095842 36781

Entry Fee: Free

Timings : Morning 6 am to Evening 6 pm

Worship Time: 6 am to 12 pm and 4pm to 6 pm

Moolavar: Lord Muruga With His Consorts

Amman/Thayar: Valli, Deivanai

Thala Virutcham: Naaval (Black Berry)

Theertham: Noopura Gangai

Year: 1000 to 2000 Years Old

How to reach

On Road: Pazhamudircholai is situated 19 kilometres from the temple town of Madurai. One can reach Pazhamudircholai by car, van, two-wheeler or bus. There is a bus shuttle every 20 minutes from the foot of the hill to the Temple. It takes approximately 15 minutes (3.4 km) to reach the temple.

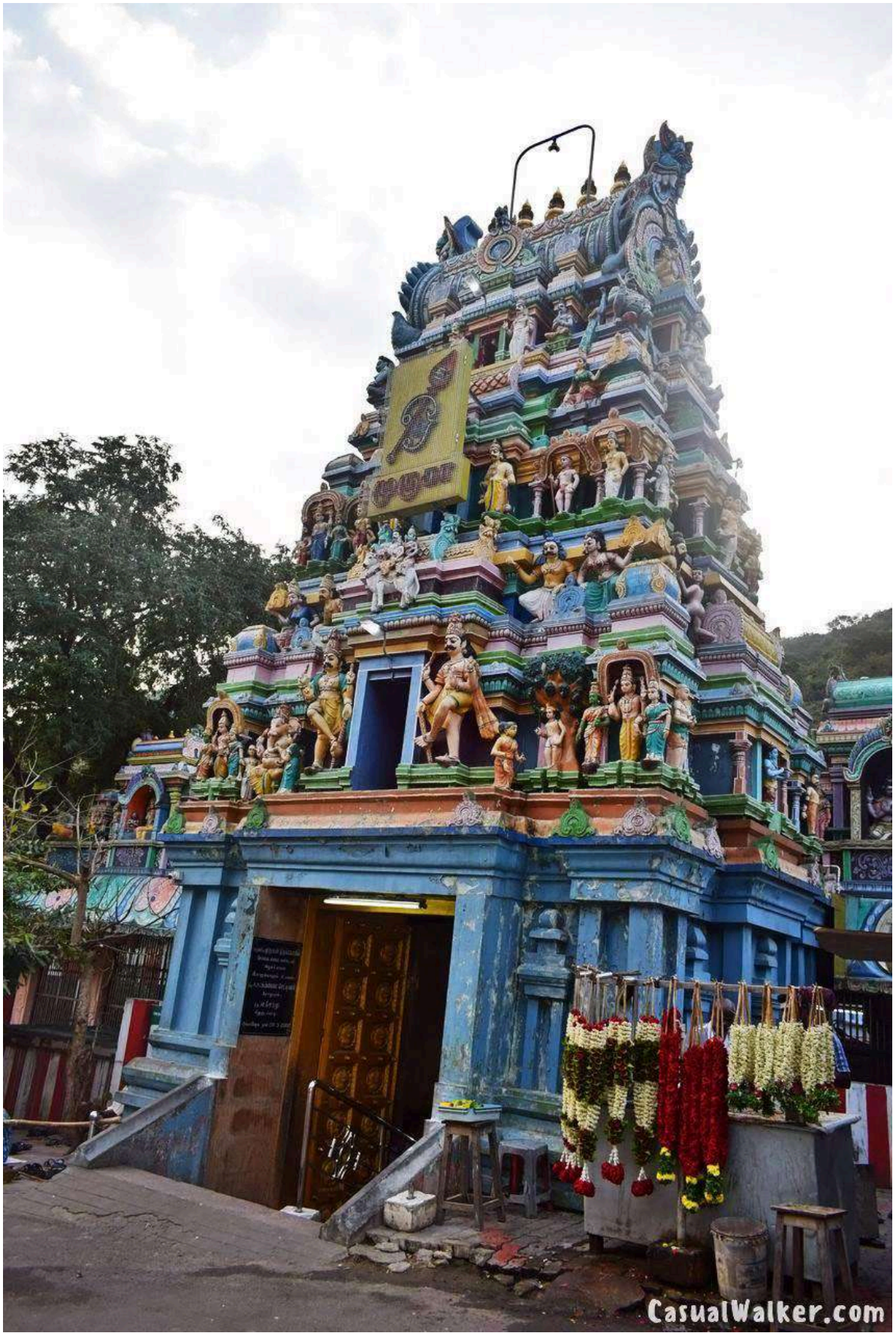
Nearest Railway Station: *Madurai Junction railway station (Station Code MDU)*, takes 55 mins to reach the temple through cab or bus.

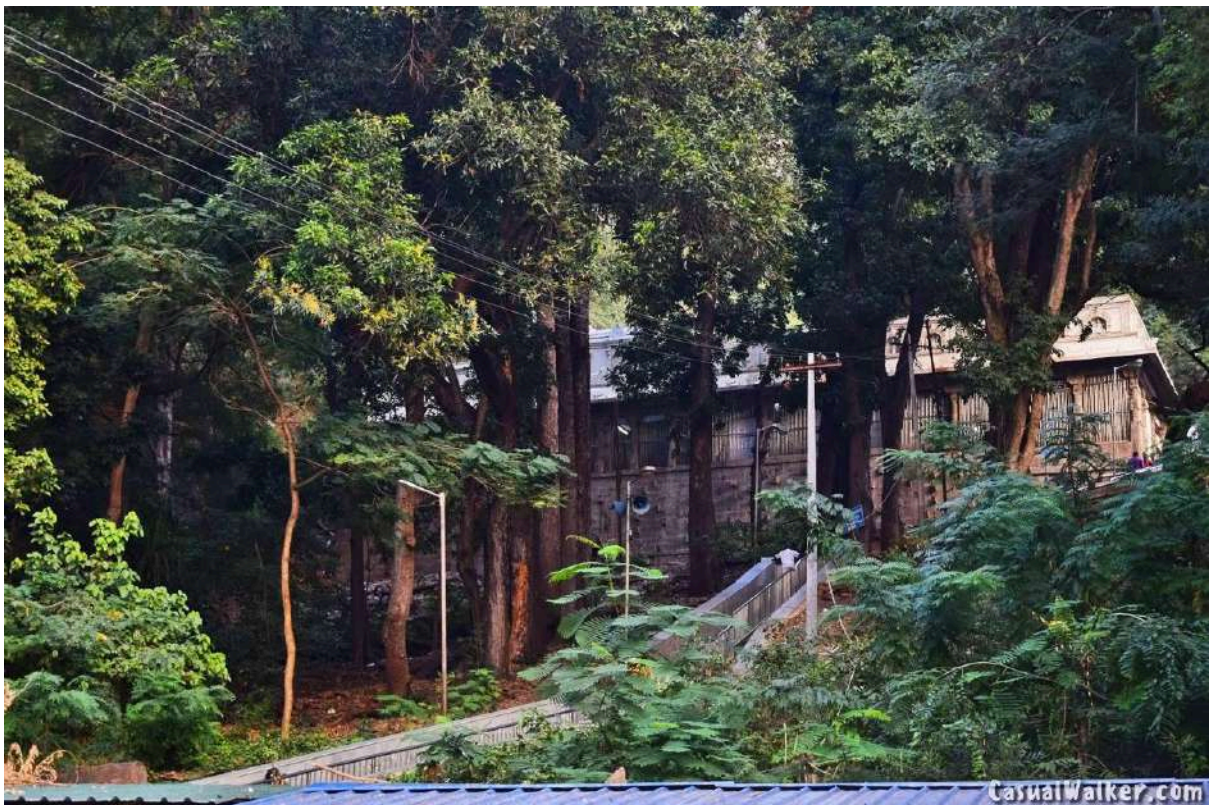
Nearest Airport: *Madurai International Airport (Code IXM)* 1 hour 15 mins to reach the temple through cab or bus.

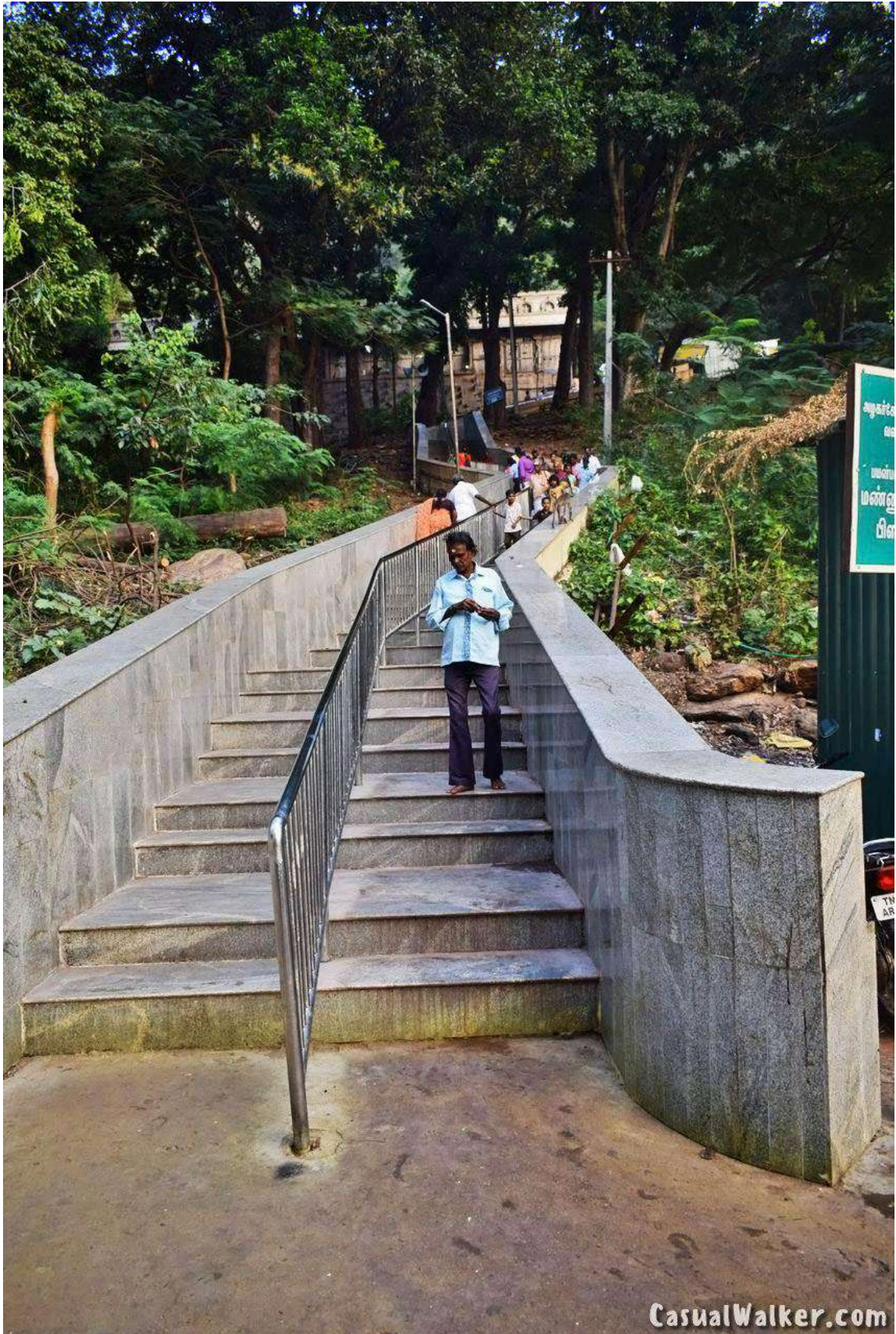
Photos





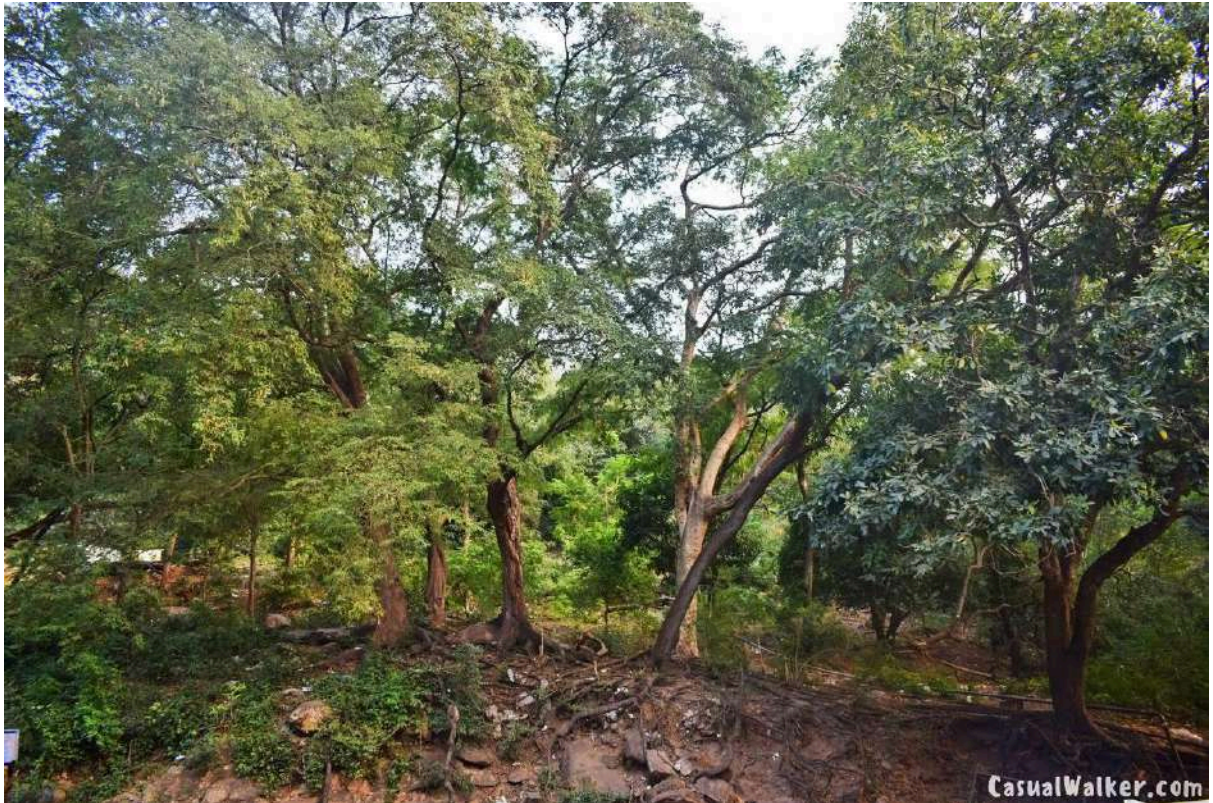












Pazhamudircholai Murugan Temple

Atop a hill covered with lush greenery and dense forests lies one of the six divine abodes of Lord Muruga, The Pazhamudircholai Murugan. Also known as Solaimalai Murugan Temple, It is Twenty-five kilometers to the north of Madurai, India, and stands only two and a half kilometers away from the Vishnu temple of Azhagar Kovil.

It is said that the Azhagar Kovil was the original home to the main deity of this temple, and the deity was later relocated to Pazhamudircholai during Thirumalai Nayak's rule in Madurai.

For ages, the Vel, which is the weapon of Lord Muruga's primary weapon Vel(an ancient spear), which was crafted and handed over to Lord Muruga by goddess Parvati is worshipped as the presiding deity in the shrine. As per the Hindu mythology, Lord Murugan split the demon king Surapadman in half with the Vel during their vicious battle. Being the only temple amongst the six holy abodes where Lord Murugan blesses his devotees along with both his consorts, he stands along with Goddess Valli and Devayani.

The famous Tamil poet Nakkeerarm mentioned Solaimalai in his Tamil Poem Thirumurugatrupadai. Though it is sixth among the Arupadaiveedugal(the six abodes), in terms of visitors, it still attracts plenty of devotees all over the world with its soothing charm and the lush green flora-fauna that surround the temple.

History Behind the Temple

The foundation of the main temple was laid by Cheaman Perumal, a ruler of Kerala in the 7th Century AD. Though the temple dates back to more than a millennium, the temple as in existence today was constructed in recent memory. In ancient times, only the Vel was worshipped as the main deity. Earlier, only a stone carved Vel, the spear of Lord Muruga, was kept in Pazhamudircholai. Later on, a wood idol of Muruga standing with his consorts, Valli and Deivanai were added.

Stories of Saints

Avvaiyar was a renowned and legendary Tamil poetess and a name behind one of the most famous and appreciated works ever written in Hindu folklore. Her exceptional vocabulary and dexterity in the language made her works stand apart, in the list of even the greatest of the poets. This had started to make her audacious over her abilities. According to the pages drenched in the antiquity of the Hindu folklore, Lord Murugan who was well-versed with his devotee wanted to teach her a lesson and took the shape of a ten-year-old boy in here in Solaimalai.

After having achieved everything in her life, Avvaiyar was resting under a Naaval tree, trying to figure out what lied next for her. A small boy appeared out of nowhere and stood on the tree. The boy asked Avvaiyar if she would like some fruits. Driven by hunger and thirst, she agreed instantly.

The boy asked if she wanted a hot fruit or a cold one, which confused Avviayar but was tired of arguing and opted for the cold one. Smilingly, the boy shook the tree, as many fruits fell, all of which were collected by her.

The fruits were coated with sand, so Avviayar blew them to remove it. The boy asked innocently, why was she trying to cool down the fruit blowing, which was already cold.

This incident left Avviayar humbled by the clever wordplay and the poetic knowledge of the little boy. However, She was skeptical of the boy's true identity which was revealed to her as Lord Murugan himself. She bowed to the almighty and requested him to bestow her with his bountiful knowledge, for she had realized the power of infinite learning. She sought Lord Murugan's blessings and embarked on her quest for endless knowledge.



The Story of Muruga

Lord Muruga, is considered as the chief deity by many Tamils all over the world. His story is even elaborated in the largest Mahapurana called Skanda Purana. Muruga, also known as Skanda or Kartikeya and is considered the god of love and war.

Legend says that the celestial gods asked Lord Vishnu for help after being tortured and tormented by the demon King Surapadman. He assigned Kamadeva to awaken Lord Shiva from the state of deep tapas. This led to the birth of Lord Murugan with the sole purpose of finishing Surapadman and putting an end to the misery of the celestial gods. Tamil literature

further explains how Lord Muruga was married to his consorts, Valli when he fell in love with her, and Devayanai, daughter of Lord Indra after winning the battle at Tiruchendur.

As Arunagirinathar's song mentions, the almighty answers the prayers of his devotees and reprieves them of their grief and fulfills their wants.

People come here all the way to pray to Lord Murugan, be it seeking blessings for weddings, children, or academics.

The diverse architecture

The Pazhamudircholai Murugan is a perfect example of the rich ancient architecture and a magical aura radiating beauty fused seamlessly. The Navaranga Mandapam built by Nayaks is a fascinating structure made fully by stone, incorporated by four pillars and furnished with nine bays. The other portions of the temple have a heavy Pandiya influence, which was built by them besides several local heads, different religious groups, and individual devotees.

The temple tower itself is distinctive. The Silambar River flows by the temple adding to the peaceful and soothing atmosphere. The temple and the rose apple trees associated with the legendary poetess of Tamil, Avvaiyar, and Muruga are still said to be found near the temple. Fruits are usually yielded from July to September. The tree in the temple yields fruits which ripen only during the Skanda Sashti festival, six days after Deepavali.

Noopura Ganga, a natural spring along with a temple dedicated to Rakkayi Amman, is located at the top of the hill. Pilgrims coming to the Pazhamudircholai never miss an opportunity to take a dip in this sacred spring that, according to the mythology originated from the anklet of

Tirumal or Lord Vishnu is said to have magical healing powers and is blessed with health and wealth.

There are other springs and Theerthams in this hill, Hanuman theertham, and Garuda theertham are among the few. The pond known as Moolavavi has quite some mystery associated with it, as the water level rises in the summer and drops in the winter. The holy Siddha Agastya is said to have constructed this pond. Fruit-eating bats are seen in large numbers near the temple hanging down the branches, waiting to taste the fresh ripen fruits.

Saints

Sundaranandar Siddhar

Sundaranandar Siddha is one of the most popular and celebrated among the eighteen Siddhas. He was born to rishis in the Kishkinta hill region. He was a protégé to the great Siddhar Agathiyar who awarded him Shiva linga, which he later on installed in the Sathuragiri hills as "Sundara Mahalingam". He is behind the popularity of the Sathuragiri hills in the Western Tamil Nadu. Sattaimuni Siddha taught him Siddha medicine, Siddha yoga, Siddha gnana, and astrology. He lived along with his guru Sri Sattaimuni Siddhar in Sathuragiri hills for some time while he compiled his works on Siddha medicine and

astrology. From depicting auspicious days for cultivating fruits and produce for the maximum yield to predicting the exact day of birth and the possible day of attaining puberty in children, he has vast studies under his name. One of his works, Manaiyadi Saasthiram gives appropriate ways to construct a house for leading a healthy and hearty life. He has enriched the Siddha medicine system with his long researched works on poison treatment and the preparation of universal salt Muppu which are considered immensely valuable by many.

Siddhar Sundaranandar was an expert in space travel and attaining peace of mind through the means of deep meditation i.e Samathi yoga. Siddha Bogar mentioned this in his work, Bogar 7000. Sri Paramanadar and Vaalai Siddha were the two of his disciples. After decades of serving humanity, he finally attained samadhi in Madurai.

The Fact corner

A rare occurrence

In ancient times, Muruga's Vel was only worshipped as the main deity. The idol of Murugan along with his consorts Valli and Deivanai were only added later on. Lord Murugan symbolizes Jnana Shakti, Goddess Valli-Iccha Shakti, and Goddess Deivanai-Kriya Shakti here.

This is the only temple out of Six Abodes of Muruga, where Lord Muruga is seen along with both of his consorts Valli and Deivanai. Apart from visiting the temple to seek the divine blessings of the almighty, many come to this temple to pray for fertilization, successful marriage, and good education

The Naaval Tree

The Naaval (Jamun) tree usually yields fruits only during the July – September season. It is a miracle that the trees in this temple yield fruits throughout the October – November season, the time when Lord Murugan's iconic Sashti festival takes place.

Noopura Ganga

Noopura Ganga, a natural spring along with a temple dedicated to Rakkayi Amman, is located atop the hill. Pilgrims coming to the Pazhamudircholai Murugan never miss an opportunity to take a dip in this sacred spring. Which, as per the Hindu mythology originated from the anklet of

Lord Vishnu. It is said to have magical healing powers and is blessed with health and wealth.

Abundant natural beauty

The temple has a rich abundance of great flora and fauna indigenous to this area of the hill. Those who prefer to visit the temple by foot can enjoy a trek uphill through a dense fresh air rich path, across the green forests.

Ref: templeknowledge.com

Pazhamudircholai Murugan Temple



Pazhamudircholai Murugan Temple is a popular Hindu temple dedicated to Lord Murugan, located in the foothills of the Solaimalai Hills near Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India.

It is one of the six abodes (Arupadaiveedu) of Lord Murugan in Tamil Nadu.

The temple is situated about 25 kilometers from Madurai city and is known for its serene and picturesque surroundings.

The name "Pazhamudircholai" translates to "the hill of the fruit garden" in Tamil. The temple is believed to have been built during the reign of the Pandya dynasty.

The main deity of the temple is Lord Murugan, who is worshipped as a child in this temple. The idol of Lord Murugan is depicted with a bow and arrow, and he is known as "Kuzhandai Velappar" or "Sundara Vinayagar." The temple also houses shrines dedicated to Lord Ganesha, Lord Shiva, and Goddess Durga.

Devotees visit the Pazhamudircholai Murugan Temple to seek blessings, especially for the fulfillment of their desires and for the well-being of children.

Pazhamudircholai Murugan Temple is not only a place of worship but also a symbol of rich cultural heritage and devotion.

It attracts devotees from different parts of India and abroad who come to experience its spiritual aura and seek the blessings of Lord Murugan.

History of the Temple

According to ancient texts and legends, the Pazhamudircholai Murugan Temple is believed to have been established during the Sangam period of Tamil literature, which is estimated to be around 300 BCE to 300 CE.

It is said to have been patronized by the Pandya kings, who ruled the region during that era.

The temple is mentioned in several ancient Tamil works, including the Silappathikaram and the Tirumurukarrupadai, which are revered as classic literary compositions of Tamil literature.

These texts highlight the importance and sanctity of the Pazhamudircholai Murugan Temple.

The temple's history also intertwines with the legendary stories associated with Lord Murugan.

According to the Skanda Purana, Lord Murugan is said to have appeared in the form of a child at the Pazhamudircholai hill to bless his devotees. The temple, therefore, became one of the sacred abodes (Arupadaiveedu) of Lord Murugan.

Over the centuries, the Pazhamudircholai Murugan Temple underwent several renovations and additions by various rulers.

It was during the reign of the Pandya dynasty that the temple received significant patronage and development.

The Pandya kings contributed to the expansion of the temple complex, including the construction of shrines, halls, and gopurams (towered entrances).

During the medieval period, the temple came under the influence of various kingdoms, including the Cholas and the Nayakas.

These rulers also made significant contributions to the temple's architecture and rituals. The Nayakas, in particular, were known for their patronage of art, literature, and temple building.

Quick facts

- **Address:** Alagar Koil Rd, Alagar Hills R.F, Tamil Nadu 62440
- **District:** Madurai
- **Affiliation:** Hinduism
- **Deity:** Murugan
- **Entry Fee:** Free
- **Timings:** 5:30 AM to 5:30 PM.
- **Visit Duration:** 1 to 2 hours
- **Dress Code:** decent outfit recommended
- **Festivals:** Skanda Sashti,
- **Architecture:** Dravidian architecture
- **Best Time to Visit:** October to February

Architecture of the Temple

The architectural beauty of the Pazhamudircholai Murugan Temple is a testament to the craftsmanship and artistic skills of the artisans of the bygone era.

The intricate carvings, grand entrances, and serene atmosphere make the temple a visual treat and a center of spiritual solace for devotees.

1. **Dravidian Architecture:** The temple follows the Dravidian architectural style, which is characterized by intricately carved gopurams (towered entrances), mandapams (pillared halls), and vimanas (tower-like structures above the sanctum sanctorum). The temple's architecture showcases the mastery of stone carvings and sculptural work.
2. **Gopurams:** The temple has multiple gopurams, each adorned with elaborate sculptures and carvings depicting various mythological stories and deities. The gopurams serve as grand entrances to the temple complex and are notable for their vibrant colors and intricate details.
3. **Sanctum Sanctorum:** The main shrine of the temple houses the idol of Lord Murugan. The sanctum sanctorum (garbha griha) is designed to create a sacred and peaceful atmosphere. The idol of Lord Murugan is depicted as a child with a bow and arrow, exuding a sense of innocence and divinity.
4. **Pillared Halls:** The temple complex consists of several pillared halls (mandapams) where devotees gather for prayers and rituals. These mandapams are adorned with intricately carved pillars showcasing various mythological scenes, celestial beings, and intricate motifs.
5. **Stone Carvings:** The temple is renowned for its exquisite stone carvings that adorn the walls, pillars, and ceilings. The carvings depict scenes from Hindu mythology, including stories related to Lord Murugan and other deities. The attention to detail and craftsmanship in these carvings is a testament to the artistic excellence of the artisans.
6. **Raja Gopuram:** The temple features a majestic Raja Gopuram (main tower) that stands tall and can be seen from a distance. The Raja Gopuram is adorned with intricate sculptures and acts as a prominent landmark of the temple.
7. **Temple Tanks:** The temple complex also includes several temple tanks (theerthams) that are considered sacred. Devotees often take a dip in these tanks as a part of their religious rituals and purification.

How to reach?

By Air

The nearest airport is the Madurai International Airport, which is approximately 20 kilometers away from the temple.

From the airport, you can hire a taxi or take a local bus to reach the temple.

By Train

The nearest railway station is Madurai Junction, which is well-connected to major cities in India.

From Madurai Junction, you can hire a taxi or take a local bus to reach the temple. The temple is located around 25 kilometers from the railway station.

By Road

The temple is located about 25 kilometers from Madurai city. You can take a taxi or a local bus from Madurai to reach the temple. The journey takes approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour, depending on the traffic conditions.

Ref: solamalaimurugan.hrce.tn.gov.in

This is the official web site of the Temple.

Arulmigu Murugan Temple, Solaimalai Mandapam, Alagarkovil

About the Temple

The Solaimalai is known as the sixth house, out of six houses of Arupadai Annal, Arutperu Vallal and Anbartham Thunai Lord Murugan. This ancient temple is also known as Solaimalai, Solaiverpu, Rishabhakiri, Kulamalai, Kulakiri, Pazhamuthir Solai, Pazhamuthir Solai Malai. This temple is situated in Alagar Mountain.

This renowned temple in the name of SolaiMalai, is at a distance of 21 k.meter from Madurai in the north at a height of 3 k.m and 1100 feet from sea level.

There is one super specialty for this temple alone other than houses of Lord Murugan. Lord Murugas this temple incorporated saiva as well as Vainava. Lord Muruga and Lord Vishnu are worshipped in this place that denotes Mal and Marumagan are in the same place, so this place Alagarmalai is the best example for unity of Saivam and Vainavam.

History



Lord Murugan holy played in His every house temple. As such He played in this house also of fruit felling holy play. The Silapathikaram says that this place situated on the way to Madurai in ancient time. The grand lady poet Avvai was going towards Madurai in that way. She had perennial affection on Lord Murugan she was tri Tamil scholar, praised by three kings Cheran, Chozhan and Pandiyan. For the cause of the welfare of Tamil and affection Lord Murugan had pity on Avvai. He thought to show grace on the grand lady. Much fairness refer by Lord Murugan through this holy play to the world. The Tamil grandmother Avvai was going towards Madurai with weariness in very hot day. Lord Murugan disguised as cowboy, climbed in the branch of a jamun (Naval) fruit tree on the coming way of Avvai and waited for her. Avvai sat under that tree for rest. Then the cowboy sat in that tree branch asked her about the need of that Naval fruit to pacify the apathy. She replied to him, “oyes&prquo;. Then the Lord Murugan as cowboy asked her two questions, “ Whether need hot fruit or hot less fruit?” His questions gave astonishment to her. However she replied to him, “ Give hot less fruit” The cowboy well shakes the branch. The ripe fruits fell down. The fell down fruits were touched by sand. Thus Avvai took the fruits one by one and release air through her mouth to remove the sand. Then the cowboy laughed and told to Avvai, “Grandma is the fruit very hot? eat after get normal condition”. Avvai wondered the wisdom of boy and wept and song a Tamil poem at the place as follows:- Lord Murugan disclosed a philosophy to the world through this holy play. That is, all human beings were pasted by global aspiration like sand the academic knowledge is not enough to remove the sand. Consciousness is must to realize the God. The sand alias desire can be removed only by the consciousness. Lord Murugan removed the apathy of Avvai and showed grace to her as a cowboy through this holy play. The series of jamun trees is on the right side of the temple and it appears as a temple tree. Lord Vinayaka appears under the tree. All jamun trees give fruit in season of Aadi, Avani months. But the above Jamun tree only yields fruit in Aipasi Tamil month only during Kantha Sasti festival. We can see this miracle even now. Though Lord Murugan gave jamun fruit, in fact the fruit is wisdom fruit (Gnanappazham). Murugan Himself is wisdom fruit. As the wisdom fruit Lord Murugan shakes the jamun fruit; this place bears the name 'Pazhamuthir Solai'.

Thala Puranam



The great Tamil Poet and saint Avvaiyar was tested by Lord Muruga here. In an episode of Divine Play with Avvaiyar, one of the most famous devotees of Lord Muruga, the Lord enacted the following drama. Importance in Lord Muruga's history happened in these places. Among the Arupadaiveedu, Pazhamudircholai is the last. Lord Muruga at Palamuthircholai is praised in several works of old Tamil literature such as a Silappathikaram, the Ettuthokai and the Pathupattu.

Literary Background



It is the place where the song was sung by the illam Peruvaluthiyar, Nakkirar, Arunagirinathar and Srimath Kumaragurupara Swamy.

Sub Shrines

S.No. ↑↓	Subshrines Name	↑↓
1	Sri Vidhaga Vinayagar	Located in Arthamandapam
2	Aathi Vel	Located in Artha Mandapam

Temple Facilities

S.No. ↑↓	Facility Name ↑↓	Facility Location
1	Golden Chariot	North East side Prakraaram
2	Tonsure Facility	Temple Campus north side
3	Drinking Water R.O.	Temple Campus
4	Thulabharam Facility	Temple campus -West Pragaram
5	Wheel Chair	Assistant security officer, camera control room is nearby
6	Free Footwear Stand	Temple Entrance
7	Toilet Facility	Temple Campus
8	Postal Prasadam	Temple Office

Donation info

Go to the Temple website to make a donation (<https://solaimalaimurugan.hrce.tn.gov.in>)

Temple Timings and Pooja Details

Nadai Opening Time
06:00 AM IST - IST
IST - 07:30 PM IST
Nadai Closing Time
07:30 PM IST - 07:35 PM IST
Morning 06:00am to Evening 07:30pm

S.No.	Pooja Name	Pooja Timings
1	Thiruvananthai pooja	06:00 AM to 06:15 AM IST
2	Kalasandhi pooja	08:00 AM to 09:00 AM IST
3	Uchikkala Pooja	12:00 PM to 12:30 PM IST
4	Sayaraksha Pooja (Evening)	04:00 PM to 04:30 PM IST
5	Palliyarai Pooja	07:00 PM to 07:30 PM IST

Pooja Fee Details

S.No.	Fees Description	Remarks	Fees
1	Annai Tamizhil Vazhipadu		50.00
2	Golden Chariot		2000.00
3	Nithiyapadi pooja		500.00
4	Alangara Abishegam		1000.00
5	Golden Kavasam		1000.00
6	Marriage		250.00
7	Archanai		10.00
8	Sagasranamam		50.00

Executive Officer

Thiru. L.KALAIVANAN

Deputy Commissioner / Exec. Officer

Arulmigu Murugan Temple

,

Solaimalai Mandapam, Alagarkovil,
Madurai - 625301.

Landline No. : 9943332282

Email : solaimalaimurugan[at]gmail[dot]com

Temple contact info

Arulmigu Murugan Temple

,

Solaimalai Mandapam, Alagarkovil,
Madurai - 625301.

Phone Number : 9943332282

Email : solaimalaimurugan[at]gmail[dot]com

Ref: tripadvisor.in

Pazhamudircholai Murugan Temple

Comments by Visitors



AKK1959

Chennai (Madras), India • 298 contributions

👍 1 ...



Beautiful Solaimalai Murugan

Sept 2023 • Family

Arulmigu Solaimalai Murugan Temple is a powerful temple, located atop a hill covered with dense forests. Pazhamudircholai is one among the 6 prominent abodes of Lord Muruga (Arupadaiveedu) in Alagar Hills Reserve Forest around 25 kms away from Madurai.

You have to climb the hill to reach this temple. There is road facility to reach the temple by car / bus / vans as well.



Written 26 December 2023



ABDESH

Kanchipuram, India • 617 contributions

👍 0 ...



Get the blessing from God Solaimalai Murugan and Goddess Valli, Deivayanai!

Feb 2023 • Family

Arulmigu Solaimalai Murugan Temple is a Hindu temple, located about 25 kilometres north of Madurai, Tamilnadu, India. A hill covered with dense forests. One of the six important abodes (Arupadaiveedu) of God Murugan. It is close to the Azhagar Kovil. Pazhamudircholai is a fertile hill, blessed with nature's bounty in the form of innumerable fruits, vegetables and natural springs. God Ganesha, God Muruga and Goddess Valli, Deivayanai blessing Devotees. One can reach Pazhamudircholai by car, van, two-wheeler or Bus. There is a bus shuttle every 20 minutes from the foot of the hill to the Temple. We can offer Betel leaf garland.



Written 15 August 2023



Kala

5 contributions

👍 0 ...



Lord Murugan shaktistal

Dec 2020

It is one of the six prominent temples of lord Murugan. It is about 4-5 km from Alaar Koil on the hills. Lord Murugan along with his brother Ganesha and his Aayudha appears in a pleasant way and blesses the devotees .

Written 30 December 2020



Arun K

Nagpur District, India • 3,374 contributions

👍 0 ...



PROMINENT ABODE OF LORD MURUGAN

Feb 2020

Pazhamudhir Solai is one of the 6 prominent abodes of Lord Murugan, located on the top of a hill with forests around at 25 km away from Madurai. Lord Vishnu Azhagar Kovil temple is just 2.50 kms away from it.

Lord Muruga is seen here with his two divine consorts Goddesses Valli and Deivayanai. Devotees visit here to seek lord's blessings.....most devotees come here for wedding, child and even academic blessings. The scenic beauty of this place also attracts many visitors here.

Visiting timings of Pazhamudhir Solai are from 6 AM to 6 PM....

[Read more](#) ✓



Written 1 May 2020



Venkataraman U

Mumbai • 43 contributions

👍 0 ...



Peaceful Darshan at Pazhamudir Solai for happiness and prosperity

Jan 2020

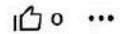
Pazhamudhir Solai temple located at a picturesque location on a hill with half an hour drive from Madurai. One can see the greenery as well as scores of monkeys en route. The Lord Murugan temple is located atop the hills and in case there is huge rush, one can buy a special ticket for entry. There are 3 altars (sannidhis) at the temple that adorn Lord Ganesha, Lord Muruga accompanied by both the consorts Devasena and Valli and the third one the Vel. Make it a point to see the well designed utsav murthy idols in the nearby hall. Sit for 5 minutes at the temple and enjoy the peaceful bliss. This temple is one of the 6 abodes of Lord Muruga considered very auspicious.

Written 29 January 2020



Venkataraman S

Chennai (Madras), India • 34 contributions



Temple #2 in Aarupadaiveedu trip from Chennai

Dec 2019

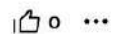
This is the second temple that we covered in our Aarupadaiveedu trip from Chennai. We reached this temple at around 11 AM on 24 December 2019. There was a moderate crowd. We were able to park our ertiga without any issues. Had a nice Dharsan in less than 30 mins, then went to Rakkai theertham which took another 30 mins. There was occasional drizzling during this trip which made it even more memorable. From here we headed to Thiruparenkundram Temple.

Written 1 January 2020



nsekar

2 contributions



More than just a trip, it is perhaps the best visit to a holy place of Lord Murugan with historic backdrop.

Dec 2019

Many a time, I had been to Madurai. But this time, it was different with Pazhamuthir Solai (One of the six abodes of Lord Murugan) on our itinerary. After seeking blessings of Lord and assisting a foreign couple on use of "Thiruneeru", we started our trip to Noopur Ganga which is about 500m away up the hill from main temple. The terrain was not so smooth and acted as good acupressure. Then came steep steps (about 70) which had excellent railing to hold while climbing. Younger people run up, while middle aged men and women move up with determination. Elderly people make steady movement only to get exhausted after half way mark. Despite weather being cool, it was sweating lot as there was no such previous experience. The zeal is to see what's in Noopur Ganga... After climbing all those steps with almost all energy drained off, you need to walk down another about 15 steps of well laid way to reach the falling water between rocks. The chill water blows you and gives all the lost energy and one feels totally rejuvenated. It is a heavenly experience to get such in warm / hot place like Madurai. Must see again and enjoy the bliss of Lord Murugan that HE had given to people of Tamil Nadu.....

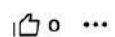
[Read less](#) ^

Written 30 December 2019



KRAMA200

Seattle, WA • 1,146 contributions



One Of The Arupadai Veedus OPf Lord Muruga

Nov 2019

This is one of the Sacred Abodes of Lord Muruga and the Smallest one. Located in Idylstic surroundings atop a Hill. Had Good Darshan of Lord with his two consorts. The Place is well maintained and you have divine vibrations when you pray

Written 15 December 2019



ruby s

London, UK • 79 contributions

👍 0 ...



Serene place

Aug 2019 • Solo

Went to this temple as for my mission to see all 6 murugan temples of arupadai veedu. Took a taxi from hotel near Madurai junction railway station price was reasonable as the driver was waiting for our return. Temple is situated high in a sort of a hill with lots of trees definitely not a forest but lots of monkeys. There is no notable temple shops selling prasadam inside nor outside. Temple was not busy at all you can take as much darshans as you like. I was fortunate enough to be seated near the front for a pooka so had a very good view of the lord.



Written 10 September 2019



Ananth 727499

Tiruppur, India • 1,516 contributions

👍 0 ...



One of the padal Veedu of Lord Murugan

Dec 2018 • Solo

This Temple is above the temple of Azhagar Koil in Madurai..

From Azhagar Koil, you have to go for atleast 10 minutes by a vehicle to reach this Temple..

It is said that This is the place where Lord Muruga made Auvaiyar - Tamil poet to realise her pride and made her to get releive of it..

(Sutta palam - sudaatha padam)

From here you can reach "Noobura Gangai" theertham, a little away from this Temple and above the hill..

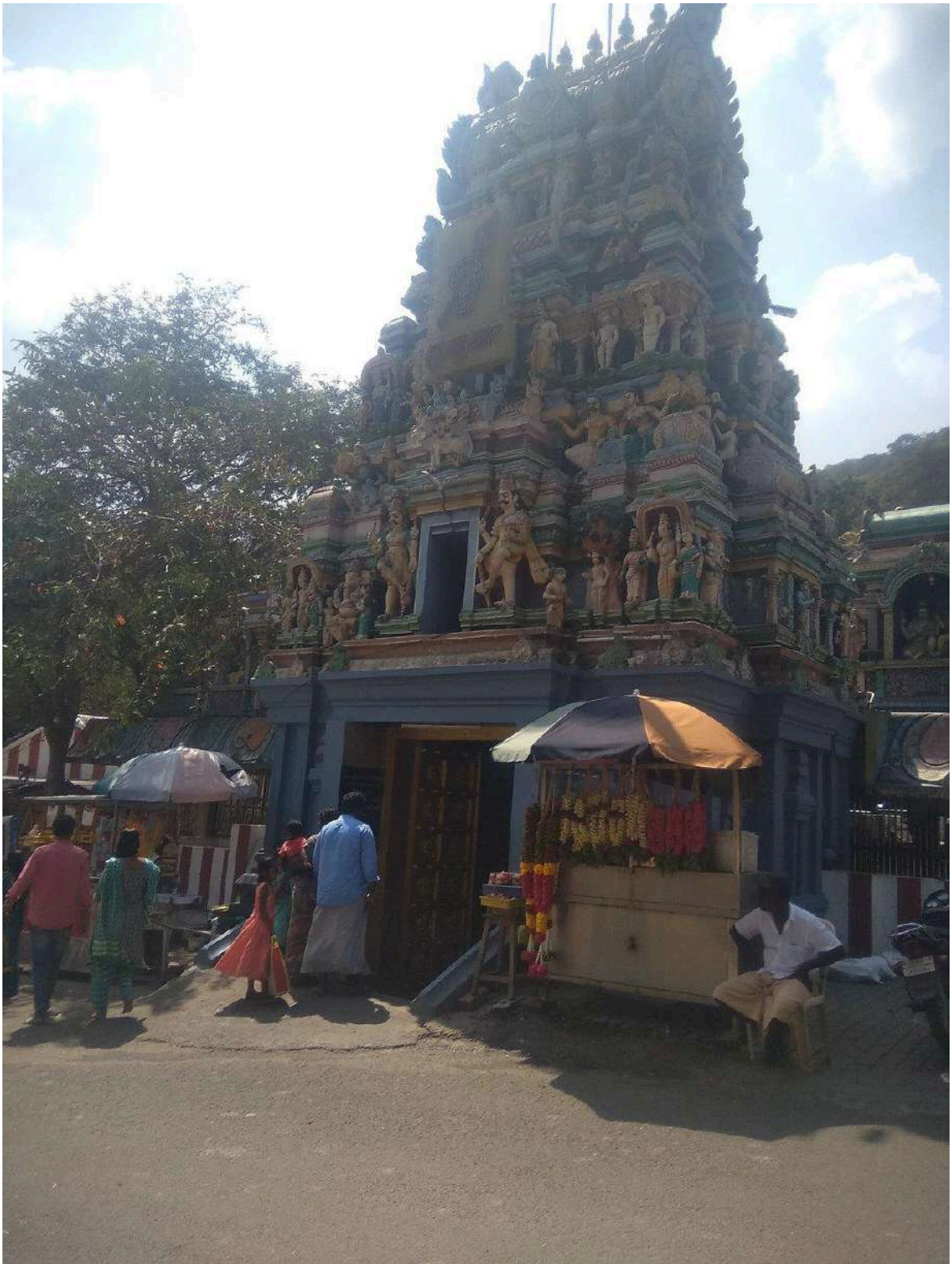
Come, have your Darshan and feel Blessed..

[Read less](#) ^

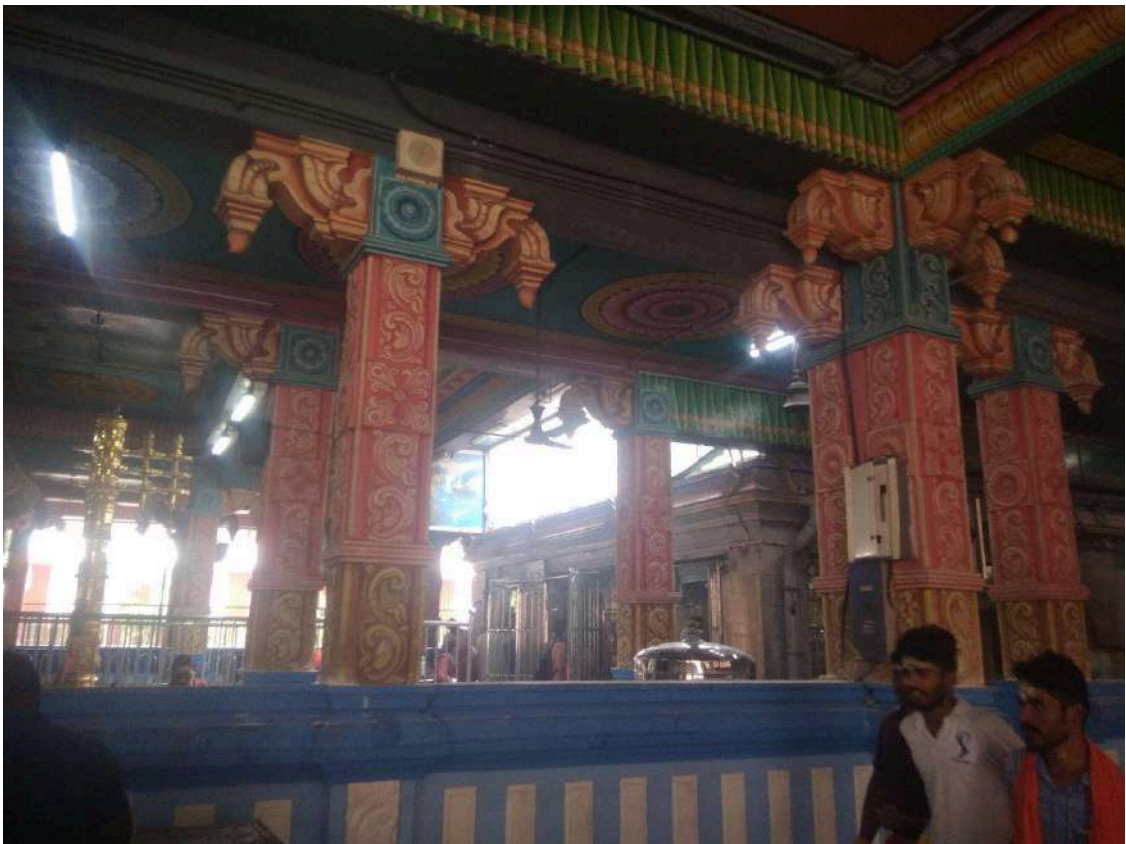
Written 4 July 2019

Photos

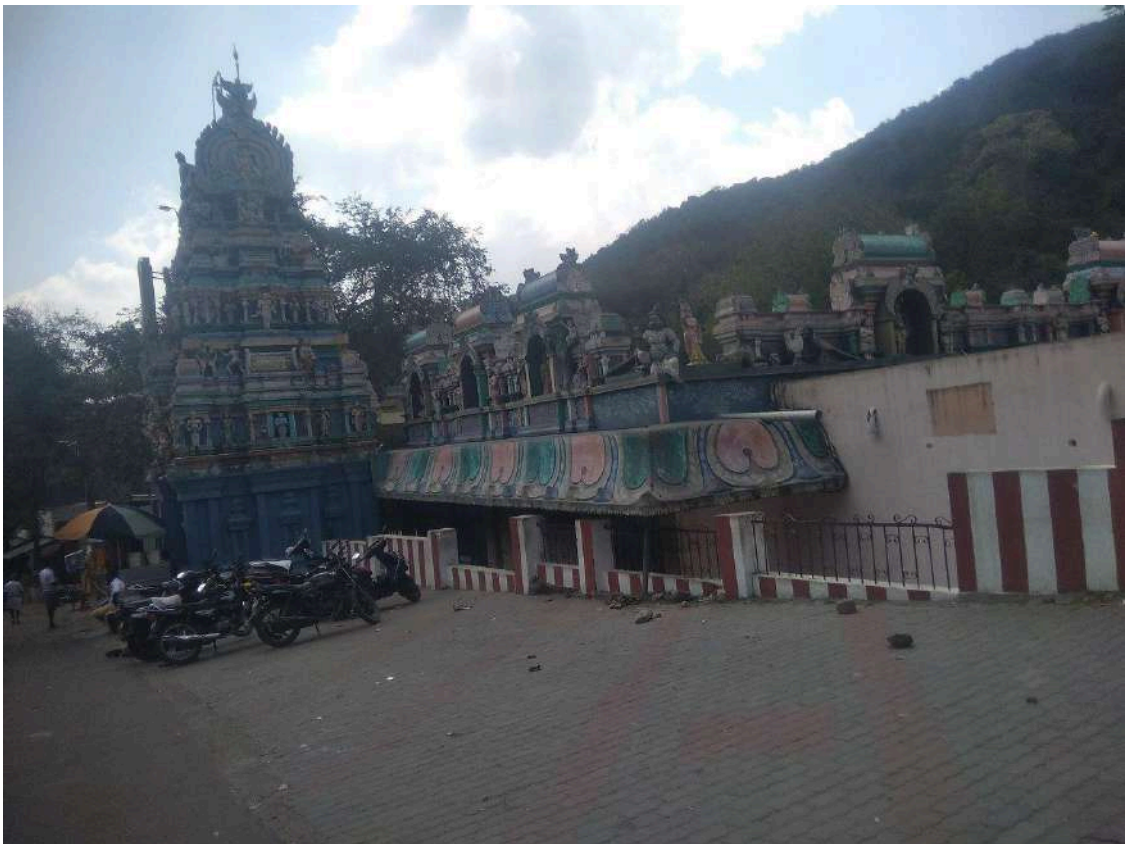




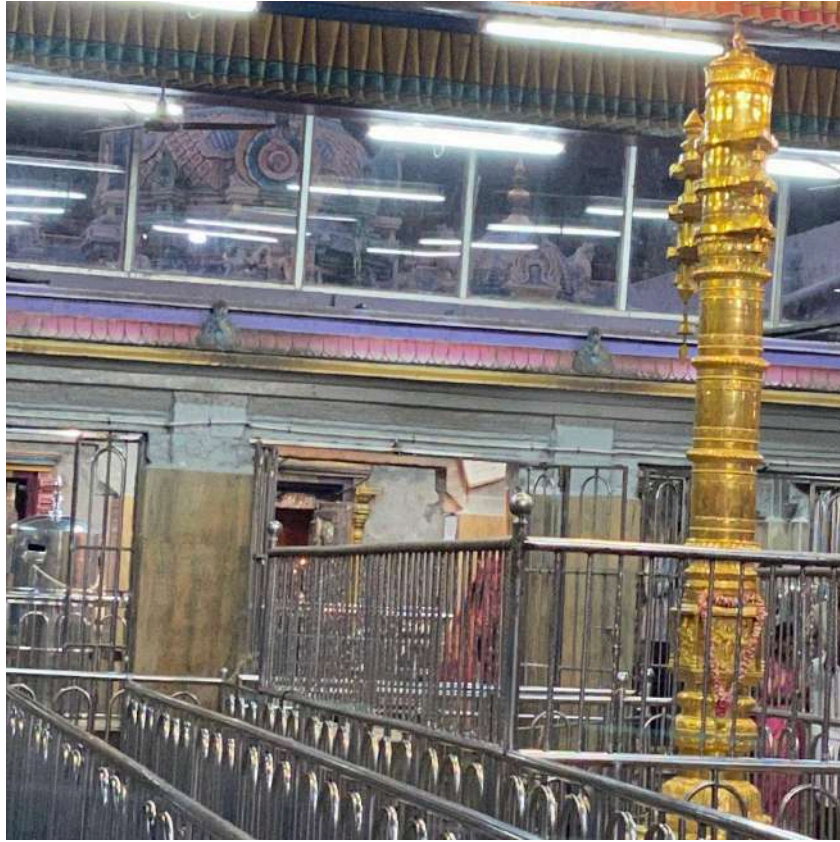








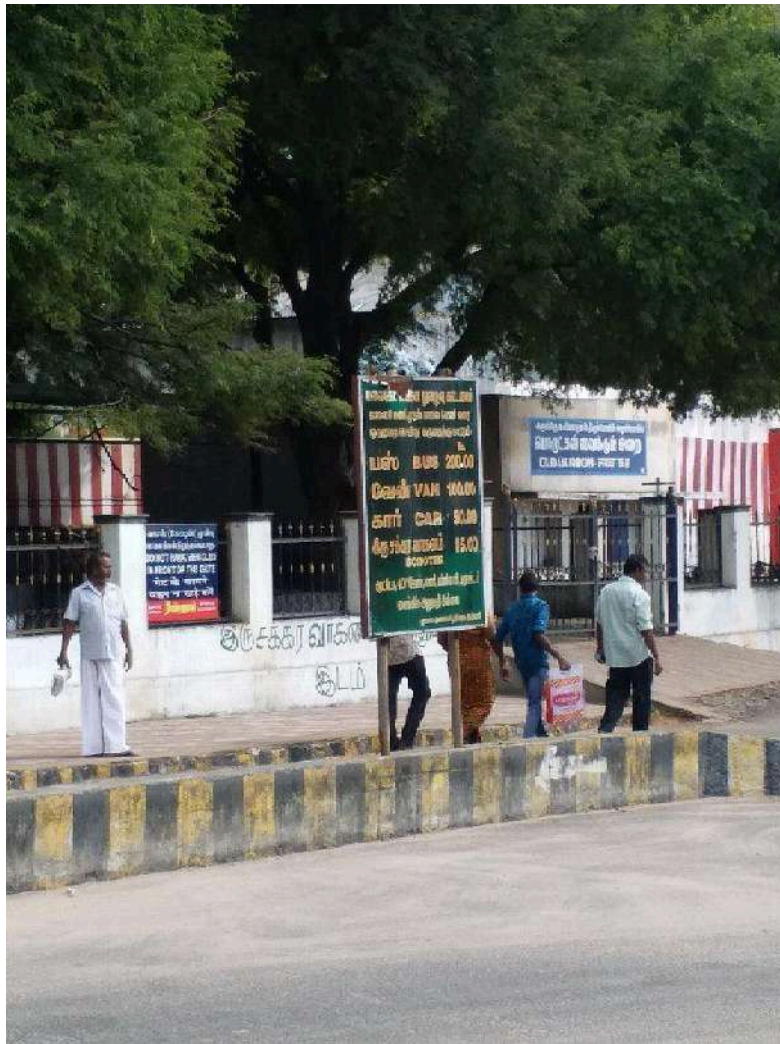




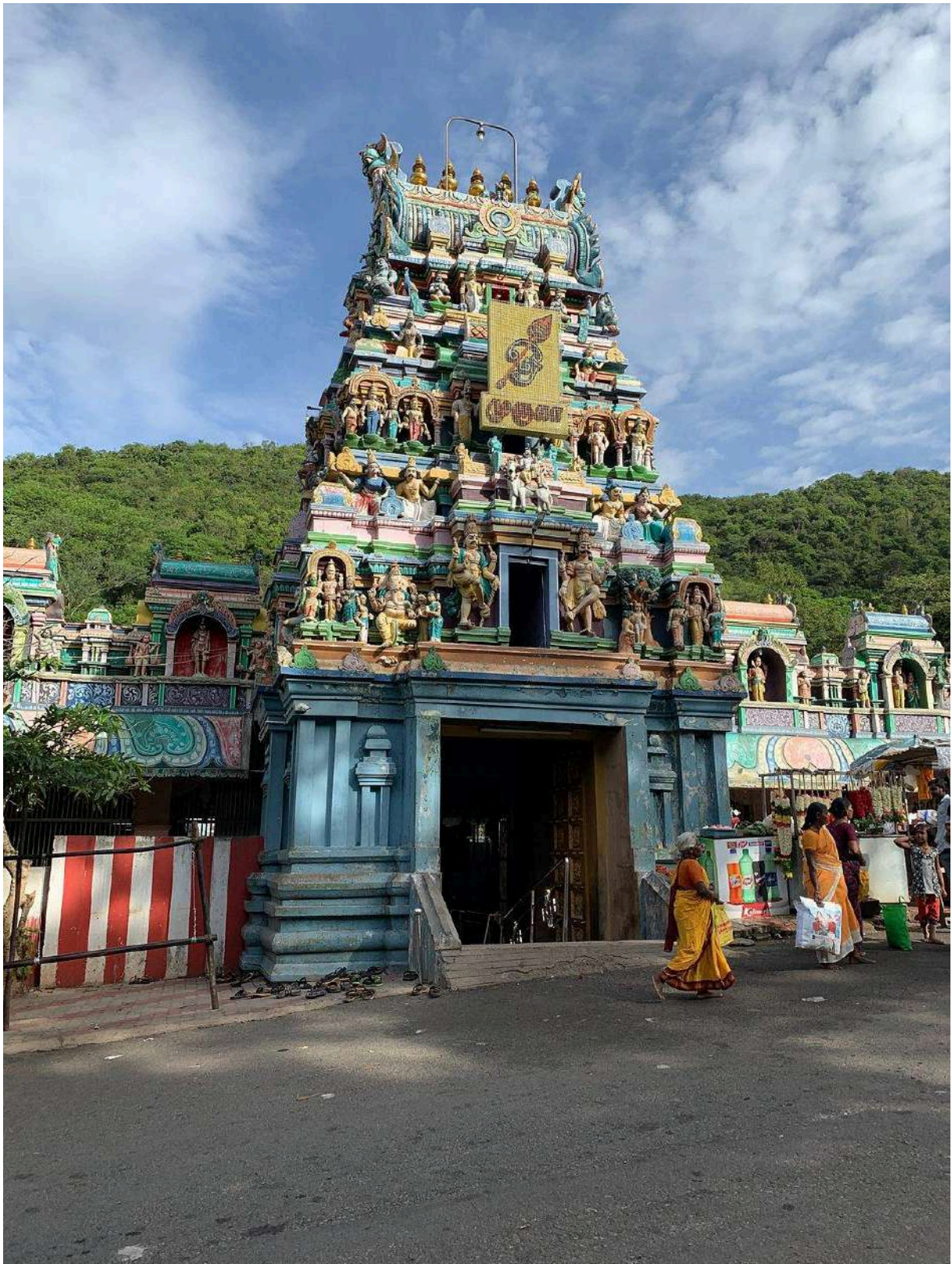








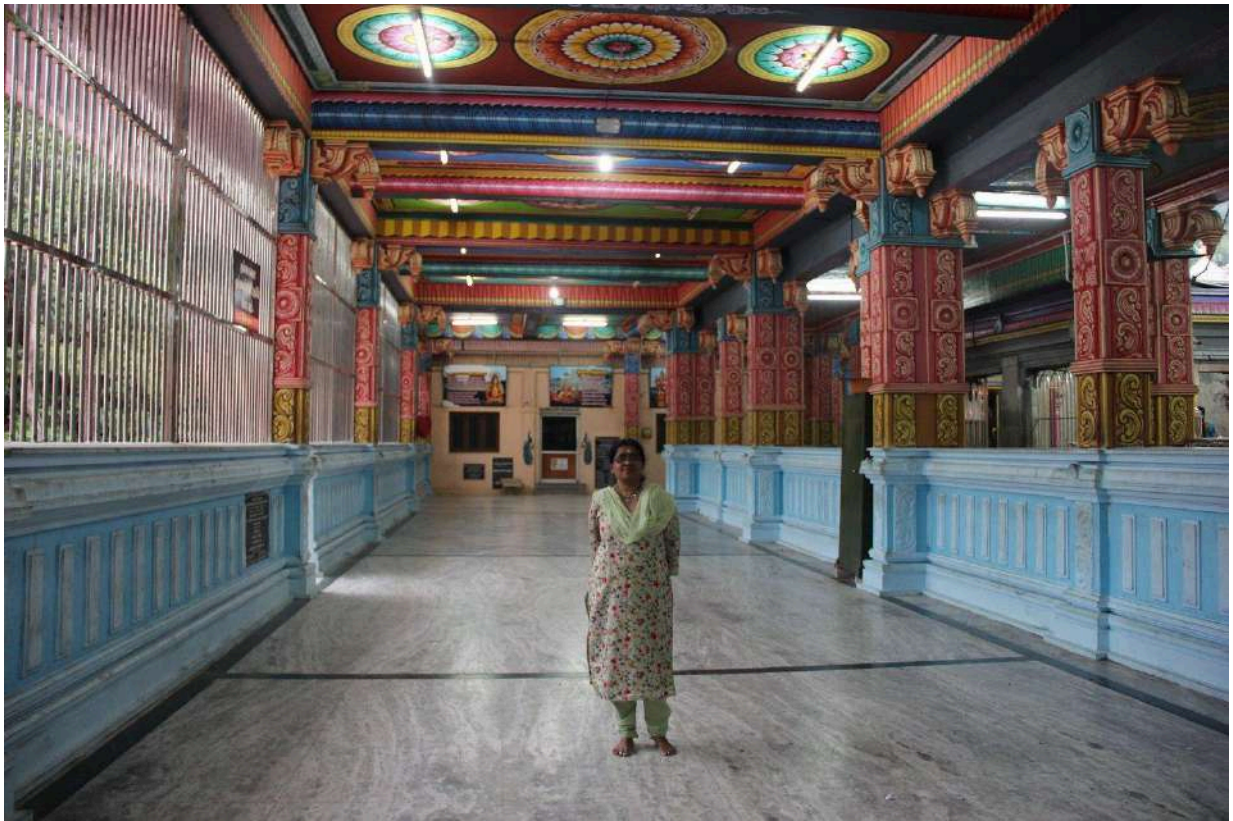














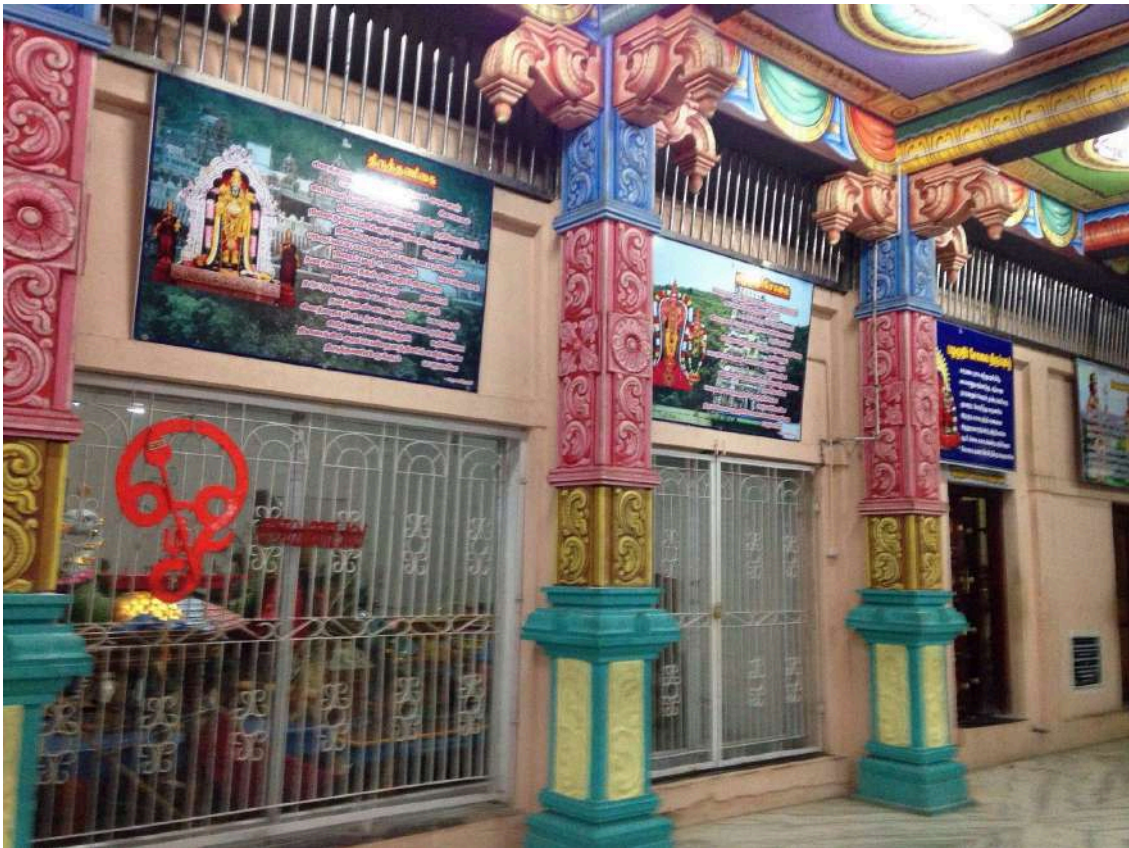




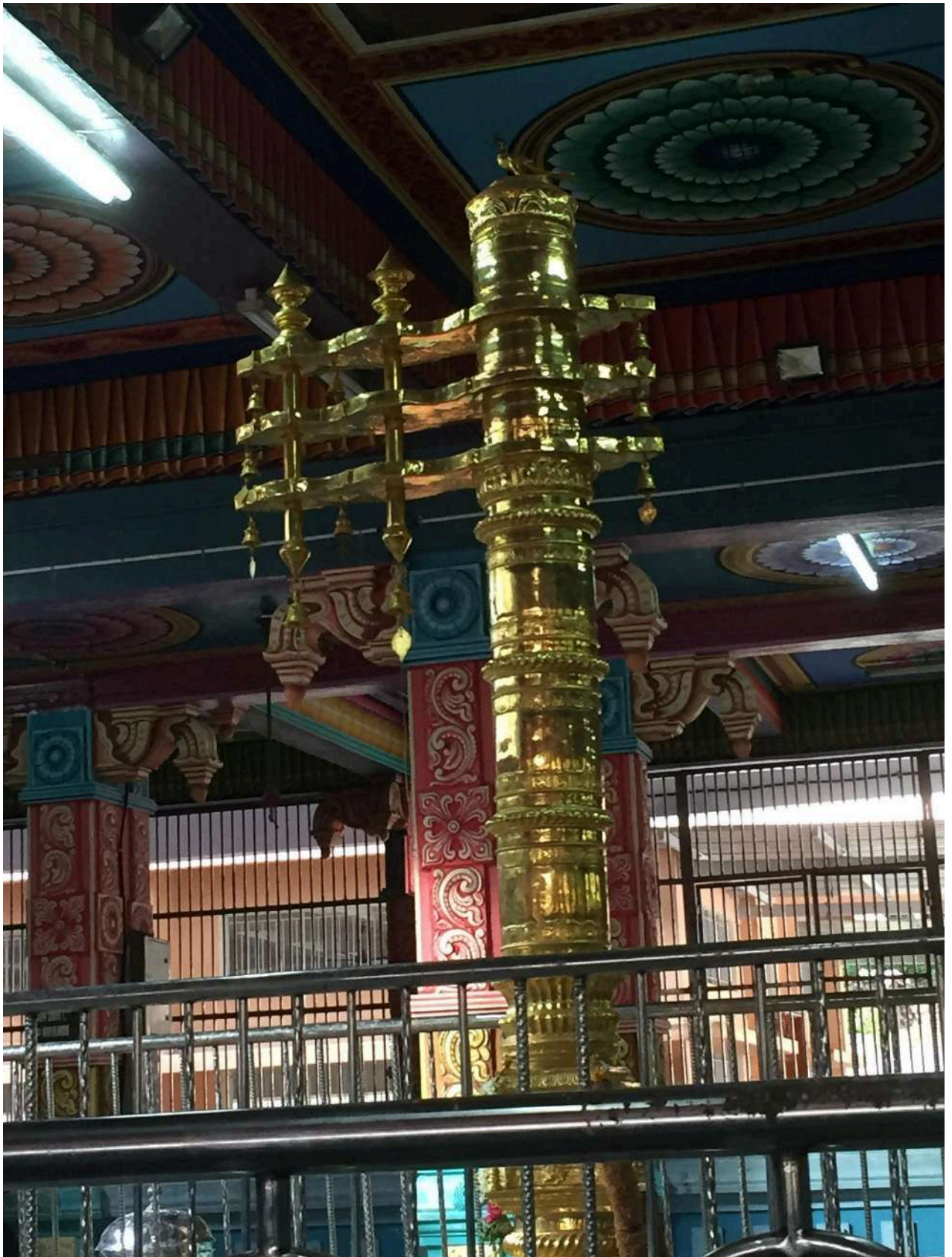


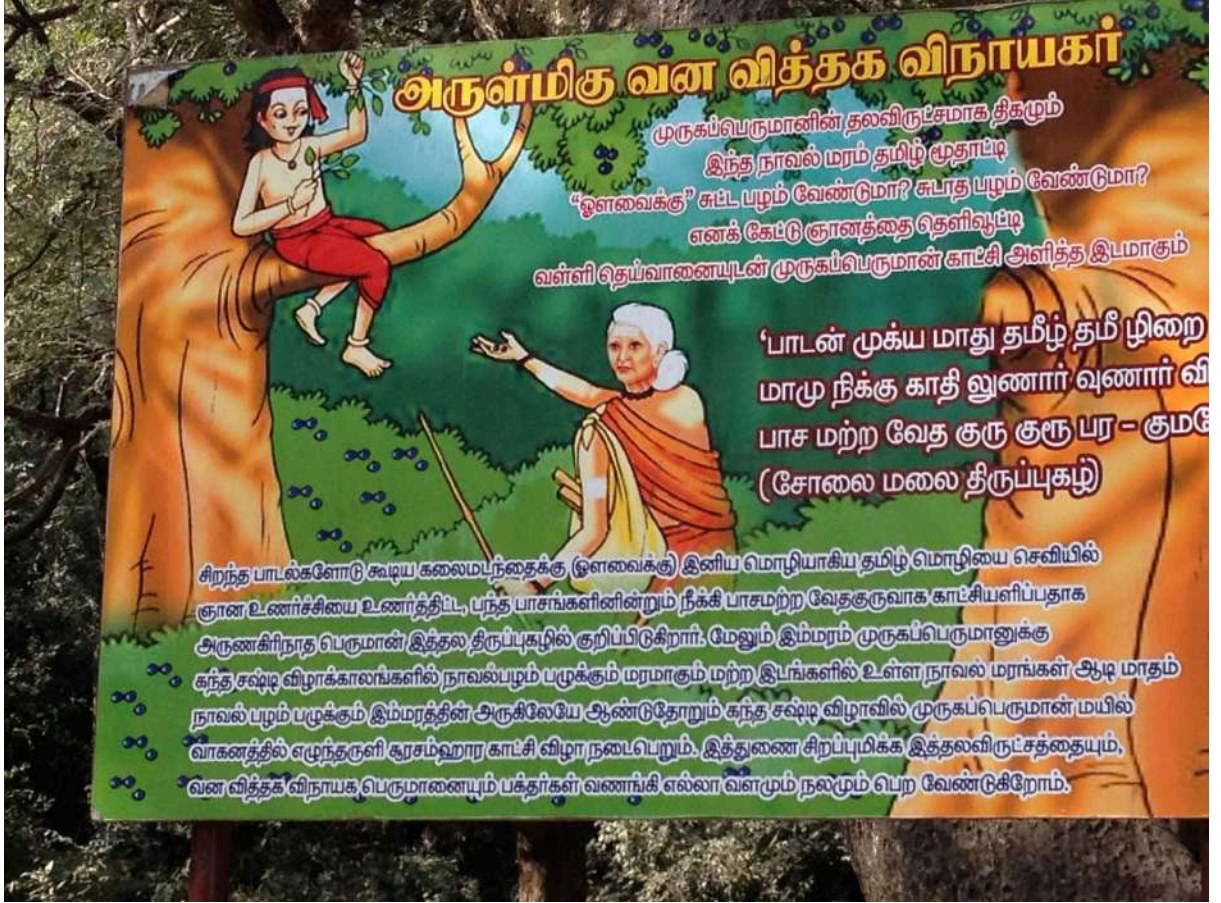












YouTube Videos

Pazhamudircholai Murugan Temple (17 min):

<https://youtu.be/8LhL32osjil?si=GPaUIAOkjuL7nZld>

Pazhamudircholai Murugan Temple - Panguni Uthiram (3 min):

https://youtu.be/HUHL0Qh1g6U?si=t8-Fk_wwFWyqnbq2

Don't miss visiting Pazhamudircholai Murugan Temple, Madurai - News7 TV (2 min):

https://youtu.be/e8MteRLqQ7o?si=e1is2F_cyXHVEc9W

Pazhamudircholai Murugan Temple vlog from Bangalore (15 min):

<https://youtu.be/M7HbMgGHS0Y?si=0M25q6fHE4WiLuMB>

Temple History - Tamil (3 min): <https://youtu.be/8wWXgPZxJ5g?si=RtNLqcDLmdh5RWMg>

Pazhamudircholai Murugan Temple - Jaya TV (5 min):

<https://youtu.be/65yazfuZ9EA?si=CvIQY6vNKd0TOi1z>

Pazhamudircholai Murugan Temple - News7 Tamil (3 min):

<https://youtu.be/J5wo1oLC8eA?si=bFFxJmYjb-nQOIJA>

Pazhamudircholai Murugan Temple (12 min):

<https://youtu.be/emTjE2H2Avo?si=i9I5jXj-EPMdYUer>

Pazhamudircholai Solai Murugan Basilar vlogs(6 min):

https://youtu.be/6DfdR9wKY-Y?si=O_Gvk4VDQ-ZMjDC9

Pazhamudircholai Murugan Temple full tour - Telugu (9 min):

https://youtu.be/jxt7vp5EULY?si=4T_mNczq5mdWyQbg

Pazhamudircholai Murugan Temple - Jaya Plus (22 min):

https://youtu.be/OotvR9rRHCM?si=xzAk7r_EWXh3PMda

Pazhamudircholai Murugan Temple History in Malayalam (6 min):

https://youtu.be/OotvR9rRHCM?si=xzAk7r_EWXh3PMda

Pazhamudircholai Murugan Temple - Tamil Media (8 min):

<https://youtu.be/Fb8QyPajM3c?si=j2lZrLbdrLqptlhY>

Bus Travel Guide (6 min):

<https://youtu.be/WLsD-yY2wEo?si=Xzzl371VXABWiik2>



ॐ स॒ह ना॑ ववतु । स॒ह नो॑ भुनक्तु । स॒ह वी॒र्यं॑ करवावहै । ते॒ज॒स्विना॒वधी॑तमस्तु मा वि॒द्विषा॒वहै॑ ॥ (3)

ॐ शान्तिः॒ शान्तिः॒ शान्तिः॑ ॥ (3)